

Artist Daniel Dunbar:

"I look to the life in this material for guidance in finding both its function and its form, because a useful object serves more than just its purpose when it is art." ~ Daniel Dunbar, woodworker

TEN YEARS AGO, Daniel and his family moved off the grid to an 80-acre homestead in the woods of northern Wisconsin. It is here that Dan builds from the trees he knows. The story he finds in the lumber of these old-growth trees inform and inspire him to find and celebrate the unique character of each board.

ONCE A TREE IS FELLED, either by storm or sickness, Dan slabs out the lumber, then stickers it out for air drying for three to five years. Once dry he stands them in his shop and, in the tradition of cabinet maker James Krenov, asks them what it is they want to be. In both his work and daily life, Dan is drawn to the patient tradition of hand tools, the harmony of glueless joinery, and the soulful approach of the Japanese.

DANIEL STUDIED FIGURE DRAWING and oil painting for three years as a Studio Arts major before completing his BFA degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. As a self-taught craftsman, Dan's drawings and furniture designs continue to nurture and reflect his appreciation for form, with sculpture and carving playing an ever-growing role in Dan's work.

(Selected) Exhibitions & Awards:

American Craft Council Show, Saint Paul, MN, 2012, 2010, 2008-2005

Invitational Award, Plaza Art Fair (Annual Juried Show) Kansas City, MO, 2011-2012

Best in Wood, Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts, (Annual Juried Show) Oconomowoc, WI, 2011-2012

Best in Wood, Marshfield Art Fair, (Annual Juried Show) New Horizon's Gallery, Marshfield, WI, 2011

Award of Excellence, College Hill Art Festival, (Annual Juried Show) Cedar Falls, IO, 2009-2010

Cain Park Arts Festival, (Annual Juried Show) Cleveland HTS, OH, 2010

Award of Excellence, American Craft Council, Saint Paul, MN, 2009

Featured Artist, "The Home Show", Grand Hand Gallery, St. Paul, MN 2008-2009

Fine Furnishings Furniture Show, Milwaukee, WI, 2009

Artist Invitational Award, Madison Art Fair on the Square, (Annual Juried Show) Madison, WI, 2008

Highland Park Festival of Fine Craft, (Annual Juried Art Fair) Highland Park, IL, 2008

Blue Sky Gallery, Show for Fine Woodworking, Minneapolis, MN 2006

Collections:

The Grand Hand Gallery, Saint Paul, MN

Blue Sky Gallery, Minneapolis, MN