

Artist Statement

“Work Songs”, the series, was started in January of 2001. It is a collection of humanoid forms created from a vast array of musical instruments and a wide variety of work implements. This series is a reference to various forms of folk music (i.e., Blues, Bluegrass, prison and work songs, as well as secular music) and its relationship to various work experiences. “Work Songs” is based on the reality that folk music evolved largely from the work experience and, in many instances, was fashioned or designed in harmony with specific jobs. And as I set out to design a sculpture, I also take into consideration the type of tools with which I am utilizing. In fact, the specific tool/s influences the overall form and character of that particular sculpture. I then treat each form as a 3 dimensional canvas with a multitude of painterly expressions. The end results are informative, unique and spirited.

So for your gratification, I offer “Work Songs”; the series. I hope you enjoy viewing them as much as I have enjoyed producing them.

Richard Ward