

Artist Résumé

Mark Thogerson

Home and Workshop Address:
875 Carlton St.
Muskegon, MI 49442

Phone: 231-773-1694
Email: mark@scrimshaw.net
Website: <http://www.scrimshaw.net>

Education

BA 1978 Luther College, Decorah, IA; Biology, concentration in museum science
MS 1987 Central Michigan University; Biology, thesis in aquatic ecology
PhD 1997 Michigan State University; Zoology, dissertation in soil invertebrate ecology

Current Position

Visiting Professor of Biology, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI
Although I do not consider myself a professional artist, I do support myself partially by sale of my work through my website and at 8 to 12 Michigan art fairs per year

Media

Scrimshaw: incised designs on old and fossil ivories, and items made from antler. Subjects include nautical themes, wildflowers and wildlife inspired by my photographs, and fantasy. I also do pierced ivory work using old ivory piano keys.

Photography: closeup, habitat, and diagnostic detail photos of wildflowers and insects, also wildlife, landscapes, architecture, and photomicrography.

Exhibitions and Shows

Scrimshaw:

2008 First Lutheran Church, Muskegon, MI. One-person show.
2005 Fremont Art Association, Fremont, MI. One of three exhibitors in an exhibit on indigenous American crafts. The other crafts included flint knapping and rawhide-lace snowshoe making.
2001 Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI. Part of an exhibit on American crafts, also including quilting, woodcarving, glass blowing and weathervanes
1981-83 Mid-Michigan Exhibition, Center for the Arts, Midland, MI. Competitive exhibition.

Photography:

2006: First Lutheran Church, Muskegon, MI. One-person show.

Juried art fairs accepted to in the past ten years (all for scrimshaw):

Art on the Rocks, Lake Superior Art Association, Marquette, MI
Flint Art Fair, Friends of Modern Art, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI
Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts, Grand Rapids, MI
Holiday Art Fair, Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Midland, MI
Ludington Fine Art and Craft Fair, West Shore Art League, Ludington, MI
Pentwater Arts and Crafts Fair, Pentwater Junior Women's Club, Pentwater, MI
Portside Arts Fair, Portside Art and Historical Society, East Jordan, MI
Reeds Lake Art Festival, Grand Valley Artists, East Grand Rapids, MI
Royal Fine Arts and Crafts Show, Castle Farms, Charlevoix, MI
Summer Art Fair, Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Midland, MI
Traverse Bay Outdoor Art Fair, Art Center, Traverse City, MI
Waterfront Art Show, Chamber of Commerce, Saugatuck, MI

Awards

- 1992 Best Display in Show, Harrisville Arts and Crafts Fair, Harrisville, MI
- 1984 Purchase award, Portside Art Fair, East Jordan, MI

Bibliography

- 2004 Schroeder, R. and S. Paskiewicz. 2004. Scrimshaw – A Complete Illustrated Manual. Fox Chapel Publishing Company, East Petersburg, PA. 80 pp. Short bio and several photos of my work.
- 1993 Interview and article in Iron Mountain Daily News, Iron Mountain, MI

Related Experience

- 1986 Taught a beginning scrimshaw mini-course as part of a position as a visitor services ranger at Lowell Heritage State Park, Lowell, MA
- 1981 Taught a how-to mini-course on native American crafts at Chippewa Nature Center, Midland, MI. It included flint-knapping, quillwork, pottery from native clays, black ash basketry and cornhusk doll making as well as scrimshaw.

Commissions in past 10 years (owners' names withheld for privacy reasons)

- 2007 Oval cherry base paperweight with a 30 x 40 mm oval mammoth ivory inset. Scrimshaw of a leaded-glass arched front door of New Canaan (Connecticut) Country School inscribed with the school's name, as a gift for a retiring employee.
- 2007 Oval plaque with 30 x 40 mm oval walrus tusk ivory inset. Final scene from Melville's "Moby Dick": Pequod sinking after being rammed by the whale (with Ahab roped to its side), and Ishmael clinging to Queequeg's coffin.
- 2006 Elk antler half cribbage board (fork consisting of last two tines of the antler) with flying pheasant, drumming grouse, strutting turkey and woodcock hidden in grass.
- 2005 Ivory-handled letter opener with figured walnut blade and cherry, white oak, walnut, basswood and red cedar laminate. Scrimshawed design: bird's nest with three eggs.
- 2003 First-year (very small) moose antler palm pen set with curly maple caps. Scrimshawed design: Cessna 150.
- 2003 Cherry jewelry box with 2 x 3 inch ivory inset on lid. Scrimshaw of antique and modern UPS delivery vans and a UPS jet, for a United Parcel Service executive.
- 2002 Elk antler fork cribbage board with walnut caps. Scrimshawed design: drumming ruffed grouse in fork area and flushed grouse near end of upper beam.
- 2002 Elk antler tip cribbage board with walnut caps. Scrimshawed design: Case pocket knife.
- 2002 Nantucket basket with 108 x 60 mm oval inset on top. Scrimshawed design: carriage, driver, and two horses.
- 2000 Mammoth ivory reproduction of an ancient bronze Celtic cross, size 44 x 101 mm. Scrimshawed design: a double Celtic knot in the cross portion, triquetras in the upper and side arms, and seven smaller human figures around one much larger figure on the lower arm.
- 2000 Seven medallions of mammoth ivory, all 25 mm round, with scrimshaws of tall ships : Westwind, CGC Eagle, Red Jacket, Star of India, Flying Cloud, Helen Barnet Gring, and Thermopylae. To be inlaid on a chest of drawers.
- 1999 Duck call with elk antler body, made by Greg Keats, approximately 4" long by 1" diameter. Scrimshawed design: hunter in camouflage poncho and rising mallard, oriented vertically.
- 1998 Duck call with elk antler body, made by Greg Keats. Scrimshawed design: flying mallard and camouflaged hunter, oriented horizontally.
- 1998 Duck call with elk antler body, made by Greg Keats. Scrimshawed design: rising mallard oriented vertically.