

Frederic A. Crist

**463 Dinwiddie St., Waynesboro, VA., 22980
(540) 942-8778**

A Brief Career Narrative October 24, 2000

Forging metal has always been my choice of material and process as a sculptor and craftsman. From the time I was first introduced to this direct manipulation of metal as a student at Philadelphia College of Art in 1974,(under the direction of Jack Andrews) I was captivated by its potential as a sculptural medium. Upon graduation , with a BFA in Sculpture, I began working at Samuel Yellin Metalworkers in West Philadelphia in 1977. This studio, renowned for its excellence in hand forged architectural works dating back to 1910, was to be my training ground for the next eleven years. Here I began as an apprentice and worked my way up to Head Blacksmith. As I applied this skill and process on a daily basis to the design and production of finely crafted architectural works, I was also translating this information into sculptural works. During this time I began showing and selling sculpture on a regular basis in Philadelphia, Washington DC and New York. In 1987 I received a 1% for the Arts Commission from the City of Philadelphia, and was also invited to participate in an International Exhibition of Sculpture in Baden Wurttemberg, Germany. A year later in 1988, I began showing at Franz Bader Gallery in Washington DC and continued to show there, with five solo exhibitions and numerous group shows until the Gallery closed in 1996.

After eleven years at the Yellin Studio, I moved to Virginia to set up a studio with my partner David Munn in 1989. Over the past eleven years we have produced numerous private and corporate commissions of sculpture and Architectural works. In August of 1999 I received a Virginia Museum Fellowship in Sculpture which concluded in May of 2000. With the support of this fellowship , I went to Cleveland ,Ohio to work in the forge of Melvin Rose, to create five pieces of sculpture of a more massive scale. These pieces will be exhibited in an upcoming exhibition in 2001 and will be on our web site which is in production at this time. Most recently(still in progress at this date) is a sculpture for the lobby of the Richmond Times Dispatch building in Richmond Virginia, and a new bench which we start production on in November.

Sculpture continues to be a driving force in my work, though David and I produce numerous architectural works of all scales, which include furniture, lighting, gates and other objects which reflect our concerns of fine forging and attention to detail.