

Wayne Brungard

Wayne Brungard – Sculptor Biographical Sketch

Like snowflakes every person brings with them a special set of talents, skills, traits, and capacities as they come into the world. This along with the things they experience makes them unique in the world and gives rise to intuition and feelings that influence their path through life. The rest of our life is spent learning who this unique person really is and what the special set of talents, skills, traits, and capacities really are. We never really arrive, but we certainly know when we are headed in the right direction. It's the journey of a lifetime.

Fascinated with “designing and building things” since childhood, Wayne Brungard concentrated on industrial arts throughout most of his formal education. But something happened the day he first visited an artist's studio/gallery. Something stirred within as he felt the magic and the comfort of “having arrived.” Such striking moments tell us something. They give us an indication of where we may have been and the path to where we may be going. But growing up in rural Pennsylvania, Brungard had almost no access to fine art and his first visit to an art museum didn't occur until he was in graduate school. This prompted him to take an independent study course taught by a visiting sculptor from Mexico. At the end of the semester, the visiting sculptor curated a show of work completed in the courses he taught. Brungard was awarded first place.

Conducting research to complete a graduate degree involved teaching industrial arts/art/craft in an alternative school setting for juvenile delinquents. Here Brungard was the one being taught as he watched marginalized youth struggle to find their identity.

It was also in graduate school where Brungard first became aware of the importance of shadows through mistakes made while learning to frame images in the viewfinder of a camera.

The experiences with delinquent youth and the lessons learned about the importance of shadows have had a great impact on his work.

However, as is often the case in life, getting from point A to point B took a circuitous route. Seldom is that journey a straight line. In retrospect, Brungard acknowledges how each of these detours has enriched his current work.

An opportunity to be significantly involved in the curriculum development of instructional films to be distributed to classrooms via satellite led to his relocation to Colorado.

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Later, being invited to hire on as first mate on a yacht in the Caribbean proved to be more than tempting. However, spending five days on the edge of a major tropical storm gave much time for reflection and the feeling that it was time to return to Colorado and open his studio.

Trained in both wood and metals, and following his Dad on construction sites, functional sculpture [furniture and architectural elements] became a natural place to start his career.

Being accepted in numerous juried shows provided exposure and credibility and opened the doors for commissioned installation work, an avenue that he followed for years.

He was given an opportunity by a regionally recognized architect to present ideas for an entry of a home under construction. The owner had a very impressive art collection and hearing more about the client and their tastes, and hearing the architect's vision gave the impression for the designs he presented. These designs consisted of gates of weathered iron looking more like a collage than the typical gate and the entry to the house was a 4' by 8' bronze bas-relief. Both designs were accepted and the completion of them brought much attention from the design community and national awards and recognition. For Brungard it was the starting point as a studio artist even though he had operated Wayne Brungard Studios for several years.

This commissioned installation led to others and throughout this time he added many new designs to his sketchbooks, along with the ever-increasing desire to create these designs.

Art has the capacity to awaken our understanding of ourselves and of our relationship to others and thus to the world.

Through years of perfecting his craft, Brungard has become known by his peers and design professionals as an expert in providing compelling designs created with consummate skill and he is highly respected by the design community.

His superb attention to detail can be seen through his deft handling of materials and unique juxtaposition of shapes and textures. The artist has been featured in numerous publications including: Architectural Digest, American Craft, Luxe Colorado, Colorado Homes and Lifestyles, Colorado Expressions, Boulder Camera, and Architecture of the New West—Cottle Graybeal Yaw Architects, as well as being a featured artist on Modern Masters—HGTV, and Rocky Mountain PBS.