

The background is a composite of three distinct textures: a wooden bowl with a scalloped edge on the left, a brown leather hat with white stitching at the top, and a dark, textured metal handle on the right. The text is overlaid on the wooden bowl area.

THE
MONTANA
CIRCLE OF
AMERICAN
MASTERS

2023 AWARDS

THE MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS

The Montana Circle of American Masters shines a light on Montanans who are among the best in the world in their artform and who are a vital part of Montana's heritage and cultural landscape.

The Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) is a program of the Montana Arts Council that celebrates the contributions of our state's master folk and traditional artists. A member of MCAM is a person who throughout their lifetime of work in the traditional arts has created a notable body of work. Of significant cultural and artistic stature, their work is representative of the historic, traditional, and

innovative arts and handcrafts distinctive to the State and is worthy of note on both a state and national level.

Folk and traditional arts include fine handcrafts, decorative arts, and performance arts that are indigenous to an ethnic, geographic, linguistic, religious, or occupational community. They reflect the aesthetics and values of the community from which they arise and often symbolize a group's identity. The traditional arts recognized by these awards include traditions such as quilting, beading, dance, leatherwork, woodwork, metalwork, storytelling, weaving, ledger art, and music.

THE MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS:

- Recognizes exemplary artists and their lifetime achievement, artistic excellence, and contributions to the State's folk and traditional arts heritage
- Honors and preserves the State's diverse artistic and cultural heritage
- Deepens our awareness of the rich and diverse cultural and artistic traditions of people in Montana through documentation, promotion, and media resources.

This year's inductees join an illustrious group of 46 master artists that represent some of the most skilled and respected tradition bearers in Montana. A list of all inductees can be found on pages 8-9 of this program. To learn more about previous inductees and how new inductees are selected, visit art.mt.gov/mcam.

THE MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS INDUCTION CEREMONY

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023 • 2PM

OLD SUPREME COURT CHAMBER
MONTANA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
HELENA, MONTANA



HONOR SONG

Mike Jetty, Indian Education Specialist, Montana Office of Public Instruction,
Member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation and Turtle Mountain Chippewa Descendant

WELCOME

Greg Murphy, Chairman, Montana Arts Council

COMMENTS

Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
Brett Slaughter, *on behalf of* United States Senator Steve Daines

PRESENTATION OF INDUCTEES TO THE MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS

Taylor Burby, Folklorist, Montana Arts Council

Marc Brogger, Three Forks, *saddle maker*
Glenn Gilmore, Corvallis, *blacksmith*
Terry Hill, Great Falls, *segmented woodturner*

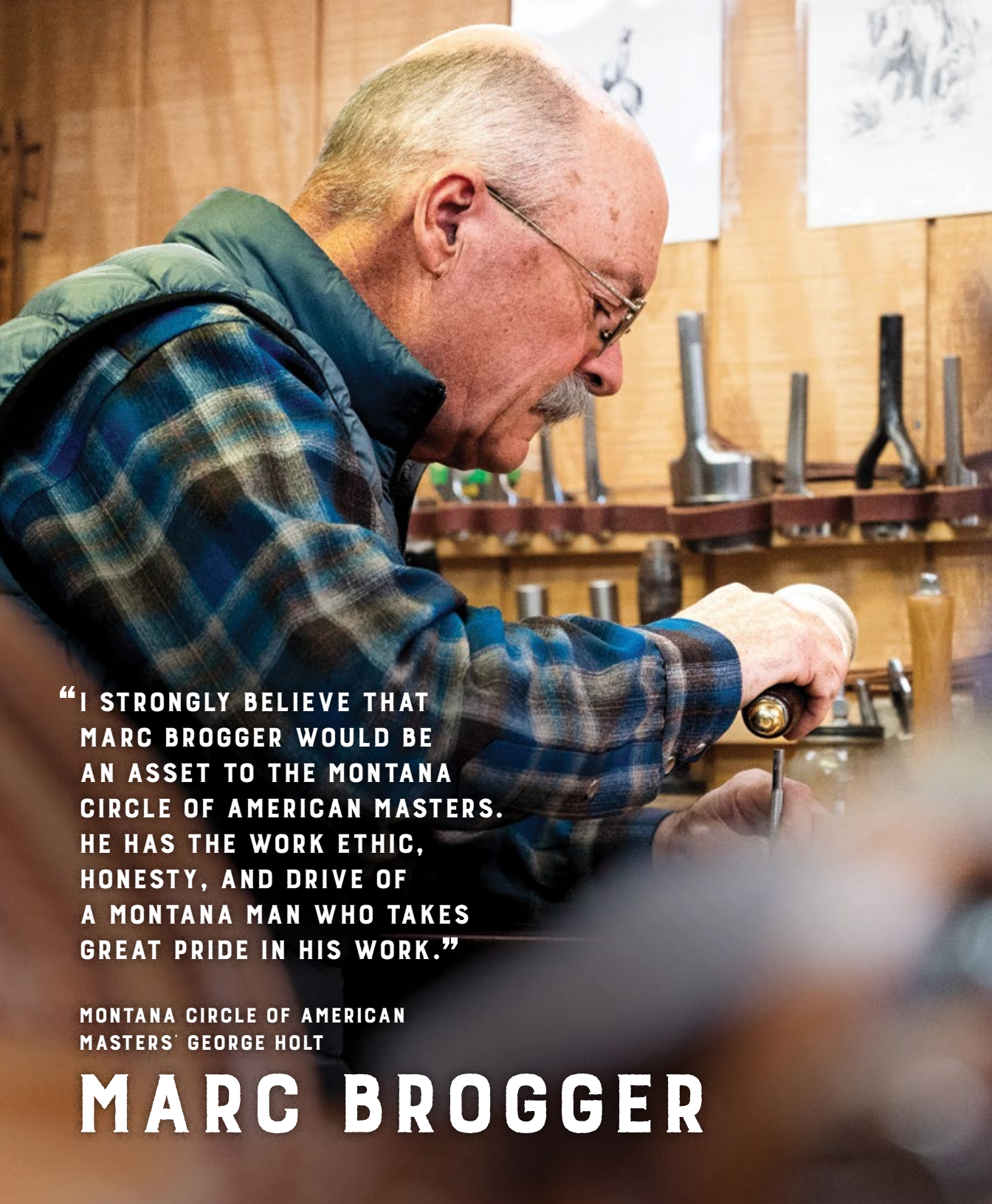
CLOSING REMARKS

Brian Moody, Program Officer, Montana Arts Council

RECEPTION

Following the ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda



A close-up, profile view of an older man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a blue and black plaid shirt under a green jacket. He is focused on his work, using a tool with a wooden handle. The background shows a workshop with wooden walls and shelves holding various tools.

**“I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT
MARC BROGGER WOULD BE
AN ASSET TO THE MONTANA
CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS.
HE HAS THE WORK ETHIC,
HONESTY, AND DRIVE OF
A MONTANA MAN WHO TAKES
GREAT PRIDE IN HIS WORK.”**

**MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN
MASTERS' GEORGE HOLT**

MARC BROGGER

MARC BROGGER, a fifth-generation Western horseman, has built over 900 saddles since the start of his career in 1981. He is well respected in the Western community for his intricate leather work and flower stamping, bringing his skills to creating ornately hand-tooled saddles which bridge art and utility. On the enriching nature of his work, Brogger states, “I believe in art and in not just being little machines that go to work every day. I think art just makes life for everyone more interesting.”

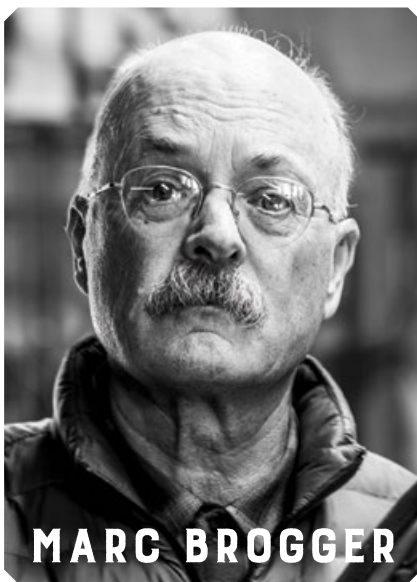
The friendship between his father, a large animal veterinarian, and master saddle maker Ray Holes sparked Brogger’s interest in leather work at a young age. After graduating from Montana State University where he was on the rodeo team, he served a three-year apprenticeship with Jim Lathrop, a well-known custom saddle maker. Brogger then worked for Dale Harwood of Shelley, Idaho, and received guidance from Don King of Sheridan, Wyoming, both of whom are considered masters of the craft. After working for Three Forks Saddlery, he struck out on his own and has since built saddles on an entirely custom basis for a clientele located everywhere from Montana to Norway.

For Brogger, the horse is central to Western culture. For 25 years, he day-worked on the Climbing Arrow (CA) Ranch of Madison Valley, a historic cow-calf operation that

has since closed. Unlike modern-day ranches that rely on off-road machines, Brogger spent innumerable days on horseback while trailing and moving cattle across the ranch’s 79,582+ acres. This experience influenced his perception of what is most important in the saddle-making world: the construction of practical and high-quality saddles that, first and foremost, fit the horse.

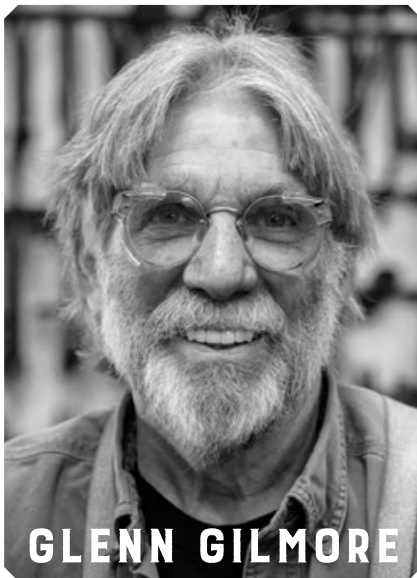
Using traditional tools, methods, and high-quality materials, Brogger creates superior examples that are not only carefully designed to fit the horse and rider but that are also built to last. His daughter, musician Lilly Platts, remarked that the saddle her father gifted her for graduation would last her a lifetime; “I’ll never need another saddle.” According to one of Brogger’s customers, he has been riding a saddle that Brogger built since 1988, a testament to the quality and longevity of his work.

Dedicated to supporting and preserving the creation and practical use of traditional Western art, Marc has participated in workshops, art shows, gatherings, and rodeos. His saddles have been featured at the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada, at the Dry Creek Arts Fellowship in Flagstaff, Arizona, and in multiple publications including on the covers of books such as David Stoecklein’s *Saddles of the West*. In 2015, the Academy of Western Artists named Brogger “Saddle Maker of the Year.”



For artist-blacksmith **GLENN GILMORE**, youth was instructive: his parents encouraged him to observe and question the processes and mechanics that produced the world around him. These formative experiences catalyzed what's become a four-decade-long career using the command of his eyes and mind, and the skill of his hands, to give life to his artistic vision through metal. "Working with metal heated to 2300 degrees, sweat on my forehead, scale falling from the steel as I shape it—these have been the 'big part' of my life," he commented during a recent conversation.

His career began with the horseshoe, the gateway to creating visually stunning yet functional architectural metalwork. After attending his first Artist/Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA) Conference in 1978, Gilmore became interested in the creative side of forging and began studying, first under Francis Whitaker at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown and then under Artist-Blacksmith Manfred Bredohl at the Vulkanschmiede Aachen in Germany. While in Germany, he had the opportunity to attend the International Teaching Center for Metal Design and went on to earn his diploma in Forging and Metal Design.

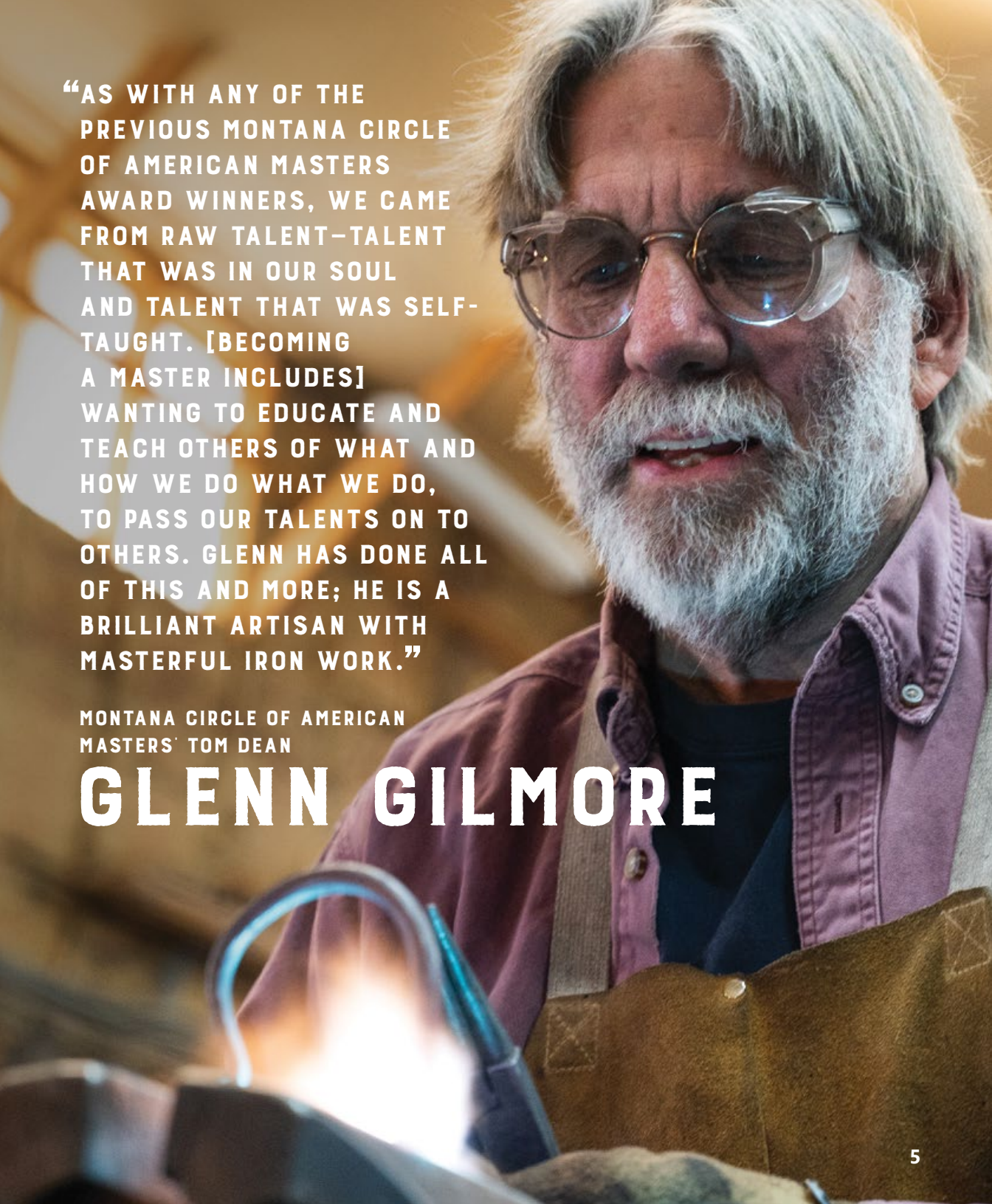


Since 1980, Gilmore has compiled an extensive resume that includes over 25 honors, including "Best Artist – Metal" in 2001, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016 at the Western Design Conference in Jackson, WY; features in over 30 prestigious juried exhibitions, such as the Invitational Metalwork Exhibition at the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America International Conference, in Salt Lake City, Utah; and features in over 50 books and national publications, such as *Fine Furnishings International*, *Cowboys and Indians*, and *Western Art & Architecture*.

International, Cowboys and Indians, and Western Art & Architecture.

Gilmore believes in passing on the knowledge he has gathered and feels strongly about the importance of ensuring his craft's continuation for future generations. From Layton, New Jersey, to British Columbia, Canada, and many places between, Gilmore has offered both apprenticeship and journeyman trainings, as well as demonstrations at conferences and craft centers, and provided many opportunities for school-aged students to learn about the artistry of smithing.

Today, he resides in Corvallis, Montana, and continues to build custom pieces for clients in Montana and nationwide, including at properties such as the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks, and Moonlight Basin of Big Sky, Montana. ✨



“AS WITH ANY OF THE PREVIOUS MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS AWARD WINNERS, WE CAME FROM RAW TALENT—TALENT THAT WAS IN OUR SOUL AND TALENT THAT WAS SELF-TAUGHT. [BECOMING A MASTER INCLUDES] WANTING TO EDUCATE AND TEACH OTHERS OF WHAT AND HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO, TO PASS OUR TALENTS ON TO OTHERS. GLENN HAS DONE ALL OF THIS AND MORE; HE IS A BRILLIANT ARTISAN WITH MASTERFUL IRON WORK.”

MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN
MASTERS' TOM DEAN

GLENN GILMORE

TERRY HILL, a fourth-generation Montanan, spent 29 years as a game warden for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks before retiring in 2007. Come 2009, Hill discovered his love for segmented woodturning through a course taught by Rich Charlson, a previous MCAM honoree, who he studied under for six months. Today Hill channels his passion for Montana's natural beauty and wildlife through his stunning segmented woodturning, specializing in designs that depict natural scenes, wildlife, ranching, and farming.

In high school, Hill recalls taking an exam that revealed his aptitude for abstract thinking, a skill essential to designing and producing complicated designs during the segmented turning process. The process includes meticulously gluing pieces of wood—yellowheart, walnut, maple, wenge, bubinga, purpleheart, and bloodwood—into intricate patterns before woodturning on a lathe. Working alongside his closest collaborator (and son) Ben, he transforms these designs into ornate bowls, vases, platters, and open segments pieces. Some of Hill's works have included upwards of 11,000 pieces, such as his 16" by 11.5" vase, "Thunder."

Hill's project ideas will wake him in the middle of the night—the wood will speak to him; while turning, Hill seeks to accentuate what "God has already given us." He starts with an idea but remains adaptable, know-

ing that those plans may change if the wood "needs something else." This intuition and mastery has won the Hills numerous awards, such as "Best of Show" in various categories at the 2013 and 2014 Montana State Fair, and the "Artist Choice Award" at the 2012 and 2013 Shadows of the Past Art Auction, a fundraiser for the Teton Medical Center in Choteau, Montana. Further, Hill's work has been published in *Treasure State Lifestyles*.


Hill's artistic legacy transcends his craftsmanship. Hill has donated many of his works

to numerous charities and auctions, including those for families burdened by extreme medical costs, to be auctioned for medical bill assistance. A skilled general stick-building wood craftsman, Terry Hill also designs and crafts gun cabinets, china cabinets, poker tables, and other items which he has donated to local conservation groups, including Pheasants Forever, the Turkey Federation, and the Safari Club.

He is also generous with his time; Charles Sampetro, the President of the Great Falls Woodturning Club, describes Hill not only as an esteemed member of the club but as a mentor and friend to all members. Hill shared that his shop is always open to anyone who's interested in learning his turning techniques, and according to Sampetro, community members consistently rely on his skills while learning the art of segmented woodturning.



TERRY HILL

A man with white hair, wearing a green and blue plaid shirt, safety glasses, and a head-mounted device, is working on a lathe. He is using a tool to shape a piece of wood on the lathe's rotating wheel. The background shows a workshop with various tools and equipment.

“TERRY HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT HE HAS MASTERED THE ART OF SEGMENT DESIGNS, IS A VERY CAPABLE TEACHER, AND HE CONTINUES TO PUSH THE LIMITS OF SEGMENTING.”

MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS' RICH CHARLSON

TERRY HILL

MCAM RECIPIENTS THROUGH 2023

BILL ALLISON
DONOVAN ARCHAMBAULT
MELVIN BEATTIE
HEYWOOD & MARY LOU BIG DAY
EVA BOYD
GLENN BRACKETT
JACKIE BREAD
MARC BROGGER
ED CAFFREY
AL CHANDLER GOODSTRIKE
RICH CHARLSON
JESSIE CLEMANS
TOM DEAN
RICK DUNKERLEY
SCOTT ENLOE
JUDY ERICKSEN
DEB ESSEN
LEONDA FAST BUFFALO HORSE
LAURIE GANO
GLENN GILMORE
RANDY GLICK
GLENN GOLDTHWAIT

ROUNDUP
HARLEM
HELENA
PRYOR
RONAN
BUTTE
GREAT FALLS
THREE FORKS
GREAT FALLS
HAYS
CARTER
POLSON
GREAT FALLS
LINCOLN
GREAT FALLS
GREAT FALLS
VICTOR
BROWNING
MELVILLE
CORVALLIS
EVERGREEN
SHERIDAN

LEATHER
PIPEMAKER
LEATHER
DOLLS
BASKETS
BAMBOO FLYRODS
BEADWORK
SADDLERY
BLADESMITH
LEATHER
WOOD BOWLS
WEAVING
WOODCARVING
BLADESMITH
CANOE BUILDING
CERAMICS
WEAVING
TEXTILES
TEXTILES
METALWORK
TEXTILES
BLACKSMITH



**TERRY HILL
GEORGE HOLT
CODY HOUSTON
JAMES JENSEN
HOWARD KNIGHT
MAUDE KNUDSEN
KEN LIGHT
NETTA LINDER
WADE MILLER
RANDY MUNDT
DARRELL NORMAN
JAY OLD MOUSE
SYLVIA OVERBY
SARAH PILGRIM
BEVERLY POLK
BIRDIE REAL BIRD
JAMES REMPP
DANIEL ROBERTS
JAN SANDERS POPA
DIANE SCALESE
ELAINE SNYDER
STEVE STEFELY
MARK TINSKY
NATE WALD
BRENDA YIRSA**

GREAT FALLS
DILLON
ULM
KALISPELL
STEVENSVILLE
FORT SHAW
ARLEE
MISSOULA
ENNIS
BELT
BROWNING
LAME DEER
PLENTYWOOD
WILSALL
WILSALL
GARRYOWEN
MISSOULA
BELGRADE
GREAT FALLS
BIG SANDY
KALISPELL
HELENA
WOLF CREEK
LODGE GRASS
BIG SANDY

WOOD BOWLS
SADDLERY
SCULPTURE
WOODCARVING
LEATHER
WEAVING
FLUTEMAKER
QUILTING
SADDLERY
BLACKSMITH
RAWHIDE
FLUTEMAKER
LACE
WEAVING
WEAVING
DOLLS
BOWMAKING
LUTHIER
QUILTING
ENGRAVING
LEATHER
LEATHER
PIPEMAKER
BRAIDING
QUILTING



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STEVE ZABEL, BOZEMAN

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TAYLOR BURBY, FOLKLORIST

AWARD DESIGN

BILL ALLISON

CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHY

KATIE KNIGHT

CEREMONY LIVESTREAM

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

OUR THANKS TO

GENERAL SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
OUR CATERERS AND AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

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THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

830 North Warren Street | Helena, MT 59601 | art.mt.gov

ON THE COVER, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: SEGMENTED AND TURNED BOWL BY TERRY HILL;
LEATHER SADDLE POMMEL BY MARC BROGGER, HAND-SHAPED FIRE POKER HANDLE
BY GLENN GILMORE. PROGRAM PHOTOGRAPHY AND DESIGN BY ERIC HEIDLE.