

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

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](http://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*

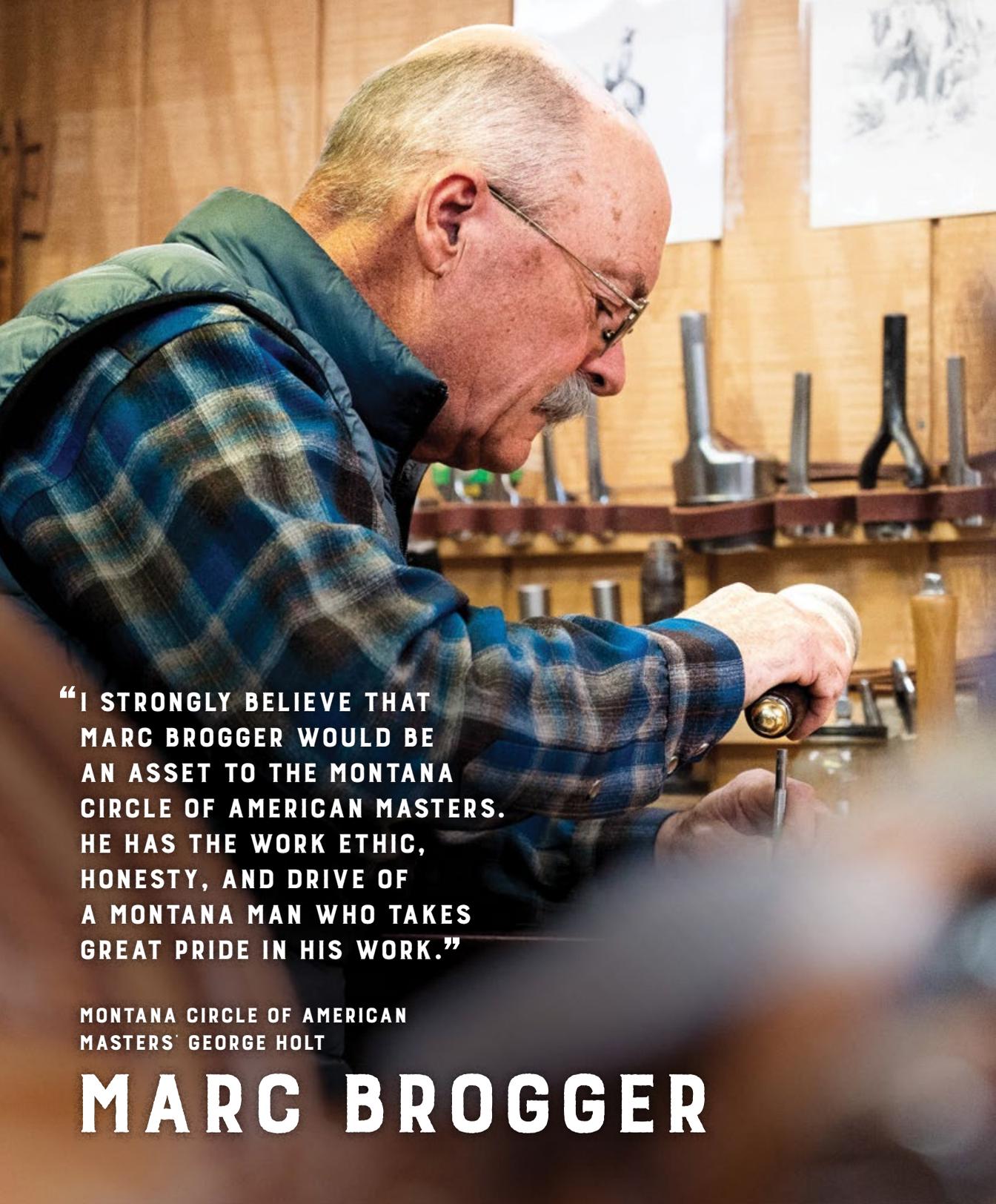
## CLOSING REMARKS

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 in a workshop, using a tool with a wooden handle. The background shows a wooden wall with various tools hanging on a rack.

**“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.”

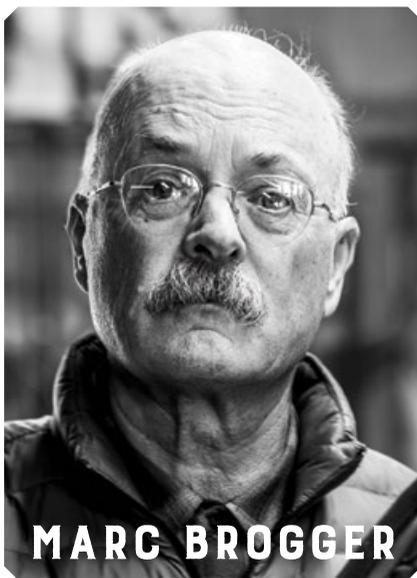
The friendship between his father, a large animal veterinarian, and master saddle maker Ray Holes sparked Brogger’s interest in leather work at a young age. After graduating from Montana State University where he was on the rodeo team, he served a three-year apprenticeship with Jim Lathrop, a well-known 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.

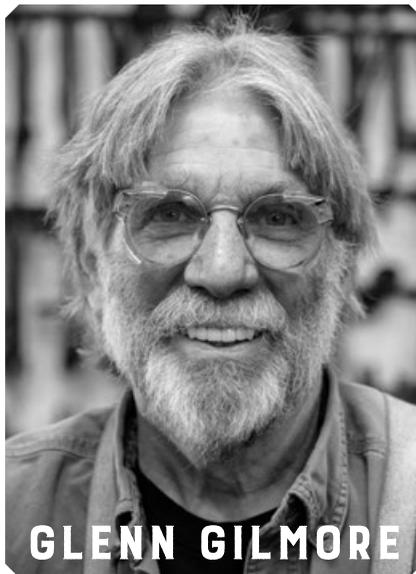
Using traditional tools, methods, and high-quality materials, Brogger creates superior examples that are not only carefully designed to fit the horse and rider but that are also built to last. His daughter, musician Lilly Platts, remarked that the saddle her father gifted her for graduation would last 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.

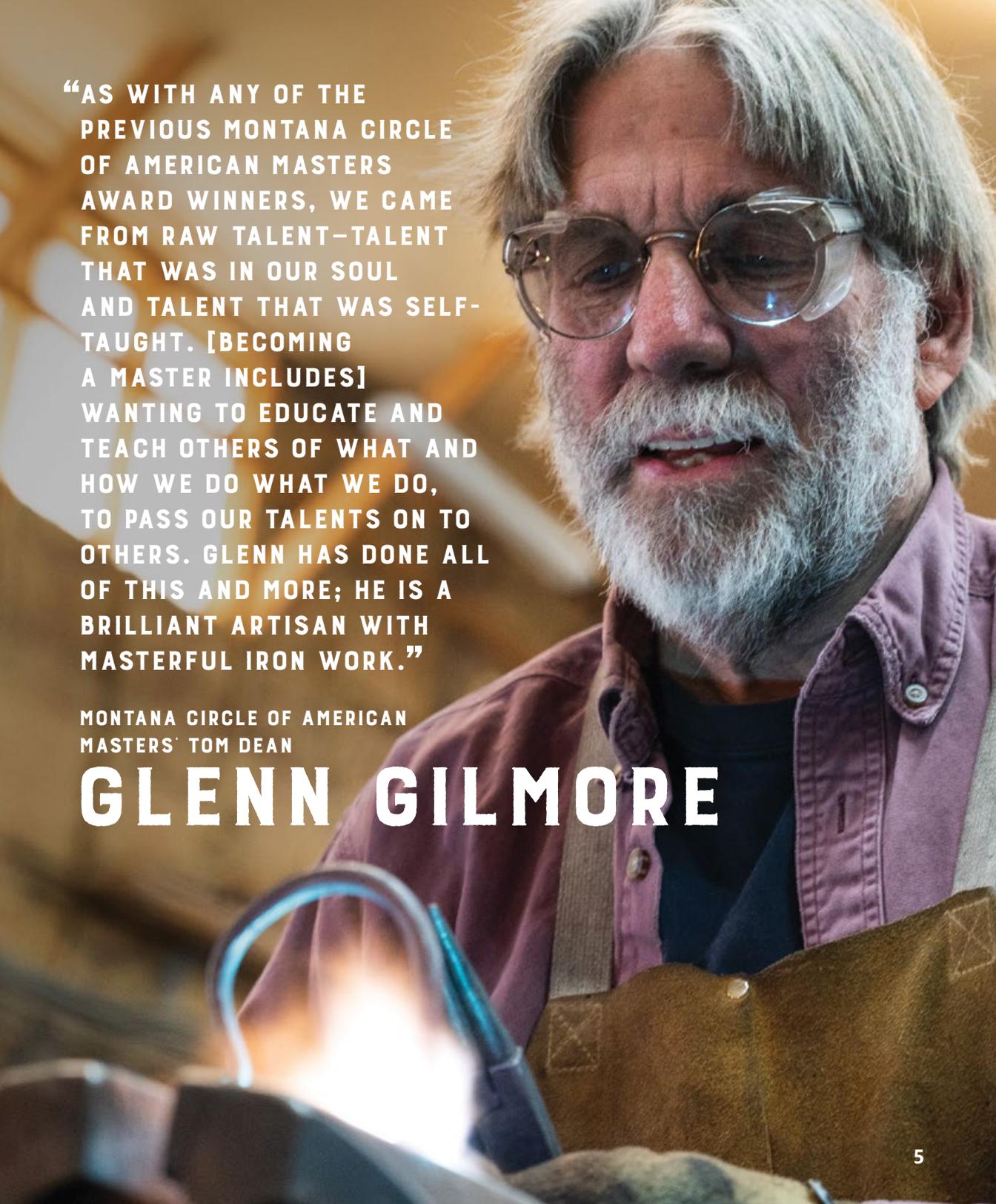
His career began with the horseshoe, the gateway to creating visually stunning yet functional architectural metalwork. After attending his first Artist/Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA) Conference in 1978, Gilmore became interested in the creative side of forging and began studying, first 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*.

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.



A man with grey hair, wearing a green and blue plaid shirt, safety glasses, and a head-mounted device, is focused on his work. He is using a tool to shape a piece of wood on a lathe. The lathe's wheel is spinning rapidly, creating a blurred effect. 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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MIKE KORN, DR. ALEXANDRA SWANEY,  
DR. EDRIENNE KITTREDGE, SHERI JARVIS

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JASON (JAY) PYETTE (VICE-CHAIR), HAVRE  
ANGELLA AHN, BOZEMAN  
SARAH CALHOUN, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS  
SEAN FALCON CHANDLER, HARLEM  
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TROY COLLINS, HAMILTON  
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WYLIE GALT GUSTAFSON, CONRAD  
JULIE MAC, WHITEFISH  
JOHN MOORE, MILES CITY  
LINDA NETSCHERT, HELENA  
BRIDGER PIERCE, MISSOULA  
ANGELA RUSSELL, LODGE GRASS  
STEVE ZABEL, BOZEMAN

## **WRITTEN PROFILES**

TAYLOR BURBY, FOLKLORIST

## **AWARD DESIGN**

BILL ALLISON

## **CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHY**

KATIE KNIGHT

## **CEREMONY LIVESTREAM**

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

## **OUR THANKS TO**

GENERAL SERVICES  
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OUR CATERERS AND AMERICAN SIGN  
LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

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GINNY NEWMAN, BUSINESS SPECIALIST

# **THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL**

830 North Warren Street | Helena, MT 59601 | [art.mt.gov](http://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.