

Richard Prazen

Richard Prazen is a third generation blacksmith who has strongly influenced the metal artistic community in recent decades. He has created metal art and custom metal fabrication for forty-two years. Many of his innovative sculptures have been commissioned for public buildings and private homes. He has received numerous awards from the National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metal Association (NOMMA) in recognition of his fine craftsmanship and artwork. Rick has worked and associated with many giants of metal and glass art, including Arnold Friberg, Avarad Fairbanks, Dan Cummings, Gary Price, Grant Speed, Ed Fraughton, Gary Streadback, Clark Bronson, as well as with his brothers Gary and John Prazen. He has also assisted in raising funds for private causes such as cancer patients, and abused and battered women.

Rick grew up in a family of creative and inventive artists. Inspired by his father's inventions, he learned to love art and fabrication. He first built ships, cars, and railroad sculptures, then evolved into creating wildlife, particularly eagles. He later began creating dragons, Indians, horses, large spiders (the one in the photo on the right is at Lagoon), and many other treasures. Rick helped develop a style of metal murals in layers of dimensions – bas relief scenes – to hang on a wall, using natural colors to shade and contrast. He always loved the challenge of figuring out how to build whatever someone asked for, knowing that with that challenge would come growth. Rick also creates metal sculptures with segmented parts that can pivot with the wind or from interaction with passersby, as if the figure were alive.



Rick often modeled for artist Joseph S. Venus for some of his paintings, like the one shown below.

