

Artist Bio, Doonart 2022

Sean Walker

I moved to the Santa Cruz mountains in the winter of 2000, after completing a season of sea kayak outfitting in Whittier Alaska. While working on the coast of prince William Sound and traveling throughout the state I was exposed to many varieties of native art pieces, and was especially captivated by paintings on wood planks and panels. Once I settled in Bonny Doon I began to experiment with my own paintings on wood, using a modified formline style reminiscent of those native pieces. Since then, I have branched out into pyrography (wood burning) and various forms of art using wood. My inspirations come from the Pacific Northwest, the islands of Polynesia, Central America, and the Azorean archipelago, and focus mainly on stylized designs of local marine life.

An avid saltwater angler, many of my pieces reflect fish species from our central coast waters. As I most often fish from a kayak, I have also been producing custom fishing tools using techniques honed on wood panel artwork. These pieces are meant to be both practical and decorative, and are quite satisfying to build.

During the past two years I became intrigued by the artwork of greater Scandanavia, which shares some similarities with the native artwork from the Pacific Northwest. With ribbon animals and gripping beasts, I have sought to bring some of the legends of the Viking era into my recent art pieces. My display for DoonArt 2022 will showcase several painted redwood shields, as well as costuming and other crafts inspired by that age of magic and mystery.

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