

The LAKER home

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Local Artist Returns to Roots; Ends up Turning Them

By Ryan Pacheco photos by Susan Radek



After a 35-year career in the stock market, Nicholas Moore traded the urban chaos and fast-lane aesthetics of the investment world for New Hampshire's endless vistas and natural beauty. Having spent childhood summers in Sandwich, Moore was called homeward to reunite with crisp mountain air, the call of loons, echoing eerily into the night from across the lake, and the finest wood a craftsman could hope for. For the past two years Moore has been practicing his passion, crafting wooden bowls through a process called "turning." The technique involves imbedding a wooden starter block to a machine called a lathe, which rotates at speeds over 1,000 revolutions per minutes, and shaving away excess material to shape the finished project, with specialized tools.

While operating from his at-home studio, situated in a utility room at his lake house on Winnepesaukee, Nicholas Moore has created splendorous works of art from local wood, delivered to him from Lovering Tree Care Services. Take one look at one of his signature (in a literal sense, every item he creates is autographed lovingly with a branded arrow, a tradition Moore keeps after attempting to brand his name, and failing to do so) Cherry salt bowls, and it's plain to see the dedicated, passionate nature by which he operates. With every minor detail carefully accounted for, pride in one's work is found satisfyingly in the form of a craft worthy of being displayed. As part of the Tuftonboro Free Library's efforts to showcase local artistry, Moore's wooden bowls were featured as July's "Artist of the Month" spotlight. This recognition came equipped with a month-long exhibit within the Tuftonboro Free Library, dedicated to his work. By all means, this can be considered the form of appreciation expected when something is made through passion, and perfected with patience. As Moore stands at his lathe, explaining step by step the fine points of technique while turning a cut-out slice of local Cherry wood, an overwhelming, as well as deeply inspirational sense of dedication, can be seen in the results.

As beautiful as the works of Nicholas Moore may be, one may be shocked to learn the time frame he's had to perfect his craft: A mere two years. To

physically see Moore's work is to understand why this may be shocking; however the circumstances turn out to make perfect sense. To begin with, the origin of Nicholas Moore's contribution to the world of wood turning is set in St. John, an island of the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he met renowned master wood turner Avelino Samuel. Moore crafted his first bowl at age 13, but drifted away from the craft for years until this meeting. Samuel would become a mentor of sorts for Moore, providing him with 200 hours of personal training. "I learned from the best. Avelino Samuel taught me to make the art I want to make, and simply do what I like," says Moore of his training. "What I like to do is lay a fresh cut of wood onto my lathe, chip away the excess, and let the wood tell you what it wants to do." Samuel has provided Moore with the tools for success, gifting him with various handmade equipment, as well as an understanding of the art form in itself, of crafting genuine works of art.

With Nicholas Moore, you clearly see where the motivation lies. It's all about the passion, not the profit. The attention to detail, drive for perfection and quality seen in the finished piece is obtainable only to the man who includes his heart and soul into production cost. Be that as it may, Moore collects revenue from his work via his art sales venture, Arrow Wood Turning. With the help of his photographer/girlfriend, Moore sells a variety of his art online through his website, as well as promoting his works on social media through platforms like Instagram (see end of article for web addresses and Instagram information). Through his website, orders can be placed and shipped directly to you. The website features items that are for sale, as well as previously sold items he



Maple Burl.

wishes to display online. If a customer comes across a sold item they wish to own, arrangements can be made with Moore to have a similar one produced, although identical replicas pose a challenge. "The imperfections, blemishes and marks in each cut of wood are what give each individual piece its own beauty, kind of like in life," says Moore. What can be assured is the quality, passion, and personality that goes into every piece Moore makes, whether for payment or hobby purposes. Each item made by Nicholas Moore is also branded with his signature arrow logo, which is burned into every wooden creation, and then logged in his ledger of completed works.

Two years into his mastery of the hobby, Nicholas Moore has far exceeded



Maple Burl, turned and hollowed

his experience level, and continues to peruse ambitions. In 1975, Moore had spent time living by California's Monterrey Peninsula, near Caramel-By-The-Sea. With the purchase of his new home in this area, Moore has (knock

on wood) plans to open a second studio to practice his craft. He awaits the chance to use local woods found in that region of the West Coast. Woods such as Eucalyptus and the Manzanita root, a breathtaking complication of roots, naturally tinted to an intense shade of dark red. "The misshapen, tangled bunch of roots makes an interesting challenge for wood turning, and really can create some spectacular pieces," says Moore. Moore plans to continue his brand of dedication to craft, and operate with a focus on doing what he loves, versus a focus on the lucrative aspect of his work. Nicholas Moore does what he loves, where he loves. Whether by the warm sea breezes of the California coastline, or the crisp natural awe of New Hampshire's Lakes Region, Moore seeks beauty and art born directly from the natural wonders of the places he cherishes.

Fifty years have passed since Nicholas Moore made his first wooden craft at the age of 13. As humble a man as he is, one might wonder if he would believe the skills he would achieve in his craft later in life, but rest assured his reputation is one that was undeniably earned. His work is a bold testament to the beauty and accomplishments that stem from hard work, a simple love for what you do, and time spent pursuing something you love. Moore notoriously gifts some of his prized works to friends and family, and that goes to show what really makes art an invaluable element of the human condition; the ability to create beauty with the world around, to then share with the people in life who matter most. As a writer, it's common practice to spend life searching for beauty wherever it can be found, and create something from it that can be shared with others, in hopes of putting a touch of metaphorical color into their world. Art is a statement, with each magnificent work telling its own story. The stories Nicholas Moore etches into his natural canvas showcase the wonders of nature, challenging work and a love for one's craft.

For more information on Nicholas Moore and his art, visit his website at www.arrowwoodturning.com or connect with him on Instagram @arrowwoodturning. 🏠