

# Today's Artist: Salem Barker (Rockford)

With my background in the mechanical and machinist trades, I developed my artist skills without education or training. Working in my hometown of Rockford, IL as a machinist and machine tool rebuilder, I found myself fascinated with industry and manufacturing. This prepared me for a career as an on-site machinist.



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I then traveled the world for six years working in heavy industries such as; steel mills, paper mills, mining, bridge/infrastructure, heavy military equipment, large diesel engines, ships/submarine vessels, and fossil, nuclear, and hydroelectric power plants.

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With inspiration from life, love, the beauty in nature, and help from up above, I sow all that I am into what I offer.

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Sculpting by subtraction, all of my work begins from a single solid mass. Fallen trees are resurrected into fine art, giving life to once living works of His art.

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

Since the beginning of creation, the signature of an Artist has been clearly seen in all things. Nature's constructs may find explanation through science, but science can't tell us whether something is beautiful or not.

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The inherent mystic beauty of the creation was delivered with intention.

Our desire to observe is simply presupposed, we don't question the attraction seen in the setting of the sun, or the form of a woman



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My heart, my thoughts, and my feelings are guides as I bring to fruition the art of my imagination. We, ourselves, are a product of the Artist's imagination, and our ability to create is but a reflection of His qualities grafted into us.

As I sow love into what I create, a better understanding for the love the Creator has for us is found.

When others find beauty in what I've created, they are helping create me.

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