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ARTISANS ON THE RISE

By Nadia Ibanez

SPACE has scouted galleries and showrooms to find the latest in the region's artisans on the move. Using only the finest of materials and creating their own unique styles, these locals have created masterpieces in glass, bronze, leather, steel + wood.▷



Photo: Helen Harlan



Photo: Amber Noland

■ Anne Ricketts has become a much sought-after bronze artist in Southern California, and she prides herself on being self-taught, with Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci serving as her muses (Ricketts used their anatomy drawings to teach herself how to sculpt the human form). She's inspired by the human body and everyday objects, and has been sculpting for the past 15 years.

Currently, Ricketts has multiple ongoing projects. She's sculpting a classic male torso and a vintage Malibu long board for Aris shop owner, Trey Russell. "Two of my brothers are avid surfers, and I wanted to capture something that was vintage California," she says. "I am also working on a horse, which is a part of a larger series I am doing about memory, childhood and impermanence."

Originally, Ricketts began her career in clay and carving wax, and now specializes in the ancient technique of lost wax bronze casting. "I am drawn to traditional materials, such as bronze and gold—[they] have a weight and history to them," she says.

"It is exciting never knowing exactly what the end result will be, and the use of fire and chemicals bring a whole new life to the sculpture that I hadn't even envisioned in my studio."

She finds inspiration in many things. Music from Lucinda Williams, Bob Dylan and Patty Griffin put her in a creative mood. "I like to gather lots of things—dried out branches, leaves, old ceramic pots, postcards that I find interesting. But most of all, just having actual space—the space to work and to sit and be, that inspires me."

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Ann Ricketts

Artistically inspired



Photo: Amber Noland