

## ***Stuart Mortimer – Artist in Wood.***

### **Born/ Education**

31<sup>st</sup> October 1942 and educated in Aberdeenshire Scotland.

### **Professional Experience**

Stuart is a self taught turner from 1968, winner of many National awards for his woodwork, he has built up an International reputation and is highly regarded by his peers and collectors alike in many areas of turning, he is a writer, teacher, demonstrator, and consultant to turners and turning groups throughout the U.K., Europe, Scandinavia the U.S.A. and Australia.

### **Work Definition**

His work is hand crafted on and off a lathe using hand held electrical powered tools as well as traditional carving tools. He started spiral work in the early 1980's to decorate a wide range of work from twisted miniature goblets, candle sticks, bowls, boxes, hollow forms, artistic and other decorative works.

Stuart retired from the London Police Force in 1989 and has since built up a strong International following for his individual works including spiral work, some say to new levels. Major works are often topped off and easily identified by a twisted finial that has become a distinctive feature or trademark. He is the holder of the World Record for the largest bowl turned in 1997 in the USA authenticated and certified by the Guinness book of records.

He uses other decorating techniques including burning, carving ( sculptural work), ebonising, and piercing.

Stuart is keen to push himself into fresh areas of turning and has a reputation for introducing new designs and ideas.

RECENT ADDITION Stuart is now adding silver and gold to his work with considerable success. The twisted finials, beads and other forms of decoration is being hand cut from solid silver.

He is on the register of the Worshipful Company of Turners and the Society of Ornamental Turners, London.

## **Gallery/Exhibition and distribution of works**

Since 1990 Stuarts work has been keenly collected privately and exhibited at major woodworking shows, exhibitions and seminars throughout the UK, Ireland, Europe, Norway, Finland, Australia, and the U.S.A.

Between 1994 – 1996 his work was exhibited by  
Oakey & Oakey  
Knightsbridge  
London

From 1997 to 2000  
Northwest fine woodworking Gallery  
South Jackson  
Seattle U.S.A.

The Bob and Lillian Bohlen private collection.

The Fine Art of Wood: The Bohlen Collection,  
the Detroit Institute of Art (DIA) from July 7<sup>th</sup> 2000.

Mobile Museum of Art, Alabama.

‘The Daniel Collection’  
in the UK.

Sybaris Gallery  
202 East Third Street  
Royal Oak  
Michigan 48067  
USA.

The Aboyne Gallery (Lady Huntley)  
(Opposite Castle Gates) Old Ballater Road  
Aboyne  
Aberdeenshire AB34 5JP  
Scotland.

Syllavethy Gallery  
Montgarrie  
Alford  
Aberdeenshire AB33 8AQ.  
Scotland

The Del Mano Gallery  
11981 San Vicente Blvd,  
Los Angeles  
CA 90049. USA.

Wave Gallery  
Yale  
USA.

Cervini Hass Gallery (Gallery |Materia)  
4222N Marshall Way,  
Scotsdale AZ 85251

Douglas Baker Gallery  
Suite 100A  
Box 44, 225  
South Sixth Street,  
Minneapolis,  
Minnesota 55402.

Museum of Arts & Design  
40 West 53<sup>rd</sup> St.  
New York, NY 10019  
Tel 212-956-3535 x 155.

There are several collectors who have donated pieces of Stuarts work to museums in America.

Stuarts work is also collected by numerous small individual collectors who admire his work.

Stuart has been called upon by the English Heritage to re-produce delicate turnings by by-gone masters for restoration projects in Historical buildings.

## **Publications**

### Books

Stuart Mortimer 'Techniques of Spiral Work' published 1995.

Tony Boase 'Bowl Turning Techniques Masterclass' Pages 94 to 103. with Gallery.

A.W.G.B. 'Wonders in Wood' page 79.

G.M.C. 'Woodturning Projects' cover and pages 33 to 36.

The Bohlen Collection.D.I.A.Fine 'Art of Wood' page 100 to 101

The Bohlen Collection 'Nature Transformed' pages 19, 36 and 152,

Beneath The Bark , the Twenty-five years of Woodturning, Utah

Woodturning Symposium. Authors Kip W. Christensen and Dale Nish.

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Stuart has written, and his work has been the subject of numerous articles for UK and American publications.

He has produced a video titled 'Wet Turning with a Difference'

### *Stuart Mortimer*

Stuart Mortimer lives in Hampshire, England with his wife Linda who gives inspiration and is his strongest critic. He is a retired Police Inspector who became a proficient hobby turner before his retirement in 1989, he went on to win several National awards before starting to write both at home and abroad. He is well known and admired in International woodturning circles for his variety of work, fresh ideas and spiral work, travelling widely in the

countries previously mentioned attending seminars and exhibitions as a sought after teacher and demonstrator.

Stuart has an affinity with trees and their product and is continually on the look out for the unusual piece of material, in fact he admits to having scouts out there looking for him.

Every piece of his work is hand crafted with meticulous care and finished to the highest degree for tactile and visual pleasure.

He is the author of 'Techniques of spiral work' and has published a video titled 'Wet Turning with a Difference'.

## **Artists statement**

I love wood and I am always on the look out for the unusual piece exotic or home grown, the hunt is part of the fun. I examine each piece very carefully before using it. Identifying or bringing out hidden features that will enhance the final piece is a joy. Destroying a hidden feature during preparation or turning can be disappointing and unforgivable.

I am also constantly looking for very plain freshly cut wet wood that has no features or blemishes whatsoever. This type of material is very predictable and allows me to produce flawless and stable lightweight turnings.

I like simple flowing artistic shapes, in spite of this I also enjoy the extra challenge of constructing works from several turnings. Retaining flow and design with constructed work is more technically challenging. This gives my work more versatility and myself a wider licence to explore new ideas and techniques. My wife is my strongest critic her feelings as well as my own to a particular piece is normally a good barometer as to how it will be received by others.

The conception of new ideas, design and techniques quite often develop from disappointment. Attaining perfection in wood is illusive but I continually strive for this goal, I enjoy each attempt at the impossible?

Stuart Mortimer  
Revised 2006.