

# CHARLES BERGEN STUDIOS

**Charles Bergen, Washington, DC based Sculptor and Craftsman.**

In my artwork I have been particularly intrigued by wildlife that lives in, on, or near the water. While I do figurative as well as abstract artwork, much of my work focuses on "water" wildlife. Along with seals, walruses, dolphins and all manner of fish, I have also done sculptures of dinosaurs, bears, owls, cats and other creatures that are not water focused. Whatever the subject matter I enjoy working in simplified forms that capture the essence of the animal or form I am sculpting and readily engage the viewer.

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## STATEMENT

I have a lifelong interest in living beings, specifically in their natural habitats and environments. It is the beauty, power, and athleticism of living creatures—both human and wildlife—that draw me to sculpt their forms and figures. I try to understand how they move, where the curves are, and what gestures they make, to emulate their energy and essence in an evocative way. This is the approach to my work.

Sculpture has always been a part of my life. Since I was a child, I have enjoyed working with my hands. I want people to touch my artwork, run their hands along the larger artwork, pick up the smaller artwork, hold the work close, creating a physical and/or emotional bond with the piece. My hope is that through this connection between the work and the viewer, they will be moved to take steps—be they small or large—to protect these natural beings and the environments in which they live.

## BIO

Charles Bergen received his BA in Architecture from Yale College in 1985. In 2012, after 22 years as an architect he decided to pursue his lifelong passion of sculpture. His career in sculpture started with two summer residencies at Salem Art Works in Salem, NY. In October 2013 Bergen made the transition to being a full time sculptor.

Over five years, Bergen has explored a range of sculptural media, materials and subjects and in 2015 received his first solo exhibition at the Hollingsworth Art Gallery in Laurel, MD.

In recent years, Charles Began has been focused on creating public art. In 2014, Bergen was selected as part of the Washington, DC Alphabet Animal Project where one of his pieces can be seen at First and F Streets SE, Washington, DC. On October 3, 2016, the DC Commission for Arts and Humanities awarded Charles Bergen a fellowship in support of the studio. In addition, the Commission's Art Bank Collection purchased works designed and created by Charles Bergen Studios for the Anacostia River Terrace Community. The work will be added to the Washingtonia Collection and offered for display to local non-profit organizations and businesses. In 2016, Bergen was awarded three public commissions. Dance Place, a vibrant local Washington D.C. non-profit arts organization, commissioned several pieces installed in a new local Arts Park. Three pieces – a colorful painted carbon steel 'Art on 8th' sign, a laser-cut metal bike rack and repair station and a fiberglass turtle sprinkler were installed in 2016 – The final piece, an artistic downspout for the building, is anticipated to be installed in 2017. As part of its ongoing effort to revitalize the Rhode Island NE corridor, the City of Hyattsville awarded Charles Bergen Studios a commission to complete a sculptural signage piece at the head of the Rhode Island Trolley Trail. Lastly, Charles Bergen looks forward to installing "Bowie: Past, Present and Future." Located next to City Hall in Bowie, Maryland, the piece, which will feature three large metalwork panels on concrete, will convey the towns' strong sense of history and highlight this community of engaged citizens that share interwoven stories and lives.



## CV

Lives/Works Washington, D.C

### Education

1977- 2013 Corcoran College of Art & Design; Sculpture and Drawing  
1985 Bachelor of Arts, Architecture, Yale College. Also Studied Studio Art and History  
1990 Master of Architecture, The Yale School of Architecture

### Solo Exhibitions

2016 June-August: CHAW – Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, Washington, DC  
2015 May: Hollingsworth Art Gallery, Patuxent Nature Reserve, Laurel, MD 2015  
June: Members Exhibition, Frederick Gallery, Fredericksburg, VA

### Public Artwork

2017 Biltmore Hills Tennis Center, Site specific public artwork, Finalist, Raleigh, NC  
2017 VisionDC Art Tank Finalist, Washington, DC  
2016 Pair of Great Blue Herons Sculpture installed at Tuttle's Place a Baltimore, MD nonprofit that assists foster children—mostly boys. in December 2016. Artwork was at "Coming About" organized by ACCR at Maryland Art Place, Baltimore.

2016-17 Downspout Art Water Dance. 50' x 25' Water and aquatic creature themed Painted metal artwork incorporating downspouts and collection boxes for Dance Place in Washington, DC. Located on the exterior of Theater overlooking the new Arts Park this new artwork moves water over 50 feet and down 25 feet to rain water cisterns. DCCAHA PABC Grant to Dance Place. Artwork & downspouts \$25,000.00 Commission received in 2016. Artwork to be installed in June of 2017.

2016-17 Bowie, Maryland Centennial Park Sculpture. Bowie; Past, Present and Future. Three six foot by nine-foot metal panels about Bowie's history, present and future aspirations. Artwork \$25,000.00 Base and pad \$10,000.00. \$35,000.00 Total Commission received in 2016. Artwork to be installed in 2017.

2016-17 Rhode Island Trolley Trail Sculptural Signage, Hyattsville, Riverdale Park and College Park, Maryland. \$35,000 commission for three metal sculptural information kiosks. Hyattsville Community Development Corporation Client. Commission received in 2016. Artwork to be installed in Spring 2017.

2016-17 History of the River Terrace Community. Eighteen twenty-two-inch diameter Medallions that tell the history of the River Terrace Community from 10,000 years ago to the present. One edition of the artwork printed on fabric is to be installed inside of the River Terrace Education Center in the Lobby to the Community Room/Gymnasium. A second edition made from waterjet cut structural aluminum Which is then painted will be part of the DCCAHA Washingtonia Collection. The metal medallions will be installed in a number of District of Columbia Government Buildings as part of the DCCAHA Art Bank Collection. \$71,500.00. To be installed in 2016-17.

2016 Dragon Dance Chinatown Barnes Dance Crossing Public Artwork, 7th and H Streets NW, Washington, DC. \$140,000.00

2016-17 Scarlet Oak Leaves, at 12th St. & Rhode Island Ave. NE Washington, DC. Public Space Approval received December 2016. Artwork to be installed Spring 2017. \$15,000.00

- 2016 Turtle Sprinkler, ART on 8th Bike Rack sculptures, and Giraffe Bike Repair Station, Arts Park, Edgewood NE, Washington, DC. DCCA Grant with Dance Place. \$23,000.00
- 2014 "Capitalsaurus Chasing a Falcarius" at First and F Streets SE, Part of the Alphabet Animal Artwork Project through a grant provided by the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop and DC Department of Transportation, Washington DC. \$1750.00

### Grants and Awards

- 2016 DCCA Washington Grant for purchase of the River Terrace Medallions. Eighteen painted aluminum medallions that tell the history of the River Terrace Community from 10,000 years ago to the present. \$46,000.00
- 2015 Culture and Animals Foundation Creativity Grant to fund the endangered species of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Exhibition.
- 2015 Second Place, Adkins Arboretum Annual Art Competition. Cash Prize.
- 2015 Finalist Theodore Roosevelt Portrait Commission, Roosevelt Senior High School, District of Columbia Public Schools Public Art.
- 2014 Frederick Gallery, Fredericksburg, VA. Colors Show Honorable Mention. July, 2014 2014 Tuition Grant for Relief Wood Carving Workshop, Awarded by the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, Rockport, ME.
- 2014 District of Columbia Grant Small Business Grant –tools, website, & renovations.
- 2013 Finalist Chuck Brown Memorial Artwork, Stovall, Walker, Bergen Adkins Team, Washington, DC.

### Teaching Positions

- 2017 Smithsonian Associates Studio Art Program.
- 2016 Adjunct Faculty Sculpture, University of the District of Columbia. Teaching Faculty Sculpture, Smithsonian Associates Studio Art Program.
- 2013 Artist-in-Residence, National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson Hole, WY.
- 2012 Corcoran College of Art and Design, Adjunct Faculty, Washington DC.

### Collections

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Scout Properties, Washington DC             | Private Collection, Loudonville, NY  |
| Karinn/ Kenneth Reister, Olympia, WA        | Private Collections, Washington, DC  |
| Marc / Oksana Teicholz, Berkeley, CA        | Private Collection, Jackson Hole, WY |
| Crowdy Design Corp., Haddam, NY             | Duane Gartier, Washington, DC        |
| Cary Hill Sculpture Park, Salem, NY         | DC DDOT, Washington, DC              |
| Private Collection St. Michael's Island, MD | Private Collection, Virginia         |

### Residencies

- Summer 2012 and 2013 Salem Art Works, Sculpture, Salem, NY

### Media Coverage

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|----------------|---|
| Summer 2016    | Various Publications and Blogs Chinatown Barnes Dance   |
| January 2015   | Artist Profile and Feature, East City Art, Washington, DC   |
| December 2014  | Art and the City Artist Profile, The Hill Rag, Washington, DC   |
| Fall 2014      | Constructs YSOA Alumni Magazine Article on graduate & faculty sculptors.  |
| September 2014 | Artscope Magazine, North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show with Charles Bergen's Sculpture "Coppa Lobsta" featured.   |
| August 2014    | Washington Express, Capital Sign Safari on Alphabet Animal Project.   |
| July 2014      | Art League Sculptor Talks Public Art Project on WJLA, ALA Blog<br>Hannah Jacobson Project Manager and Charles Bergen Artist Interview on WJLA Channel 8 on the Alphabet Animal Project: Charles Bergen's Sculpture Capitalsaurus Chasing a Falcarius sculpture featured |
| January 2014   | DCist: The Chuck Brown Memorial Park Installation Finalists<br>CBS Local: 3 Finalists Chosen for Chuck Brown Memorial Park Project  |

# Animal Sculptures in Wood

Detailed wildlife wooden sculptures depict an exploration of the natural form and essence of these beautiful creatures.



Swan  
White Pine  
9" H x 12" W x 6" D



Let Sleeping Dogs Lie  
Elm  
7" H x 16.5" D





Egyptian Cat  
American Walnut  
12" H x 6" W x 4" D



Florida Manatee  
White Pine with Walnut Base  
4" H x 5.5" W x 4" D



Harbor Seal  
Pine and Fir  
11" H x 24" L x 11" D



Pacific Walrus Western  
Red Cedar with Maple Tusks  
36" L x 16" H x 24" D



Peanut Shaped Bowl For Serving... Peanuts!  
20" W x 12" L x 2.5" D



Snowy Owl  
Pine with Walnut Base  
30" H x 11" W x 11" D



Scout the Bear  
Sycamore Wood  
60" H x 18" D



## Pacific Octopus



Plaster model of Pacific Octopus presently being cast in bronze at Laran Bronze in Chester, PA.  
36" L x 20" H x 24" W

# Coppa' Lobsta'

The twelve-foot long and five feet tall *Coppa' Lobsta'* is fun, engaging, and a little awe inspiring. Made of salvaged, recycled weathering wood and copper, the lobsta' makes a glowing presence in the natural landscape.

TITLE:	Coppa' Lobsta'
DATE:	2014
MEDIA:	Salvaged Wood and Copper
DIMENSIONS:	Sculpture 48" W x 144" L x 36" H
LOCATION:	Cary Hill Sculpture Park, Salem, NY
INSTALLED:	October 2015



*Coppa' Lobsta'* on display in North Bennington, VT, Summer 2015  
Fatime Martins Photographer

## Metal Works

Charles Bergen uses various metals to capture the contours and shapes of natural beings. His pieces range from depicting individual animals to full scenes. The work is an exploration of the lines and forms of beautiful creatures in their habitat. In addition, community works such as a piece commissioned by the local non-profit Dance Place can help to create memorable public spaces.



Atlantic Sea Bass  
Plasma Cut and Forged Steel  
20" W x 12" H x 4" D



Dolphin  
Welded Sheet Steel with Patina  
and Limestone Base  
42" W x 48" H x 36" D



## Pair of Great Blue Herons

Awkward on land or while wading in a marsh, herons, cranes and storks transform and become incredibly beautiful in flight. In this sculpture, I recreated the careful, yet slightly awkward balance the birds. In this sculpture the wooden club is forever up high where you can see and admire it. The wooden club just seemed like a natural bird head and neck to the artist.

