

Artist of the Month March 2017 - Allan & Evol King

What do you make and when did you start?

Allan - I enjoy making wooden objects that are both functional and simple in design. The finished product gives a sense of fulfillment. My only training took place at school up to Year 12. In later years I worked with primary age children and it was great to see the joy that they received when they displayed their completed article. Taking up woodwork just seemed to happen plus encouragement given by my father-in-law Tom.

Evol - I can't remember when I first began to knit, but my mother and grandmother were both keen knitters and somehow it just happened. Certainly I was knitting in primary school and it has been a passion, if not an obsession ever since.



What is your creative process?

Allan - I began collecting timber. Firstly off-cuts of red cedar placed as barbecue fuel for barbecues at Rocky Creek Dam. Later with help of several off-siders we felled and milled trees from farms – mainly Camphor Laurel and Red Cedar which were destined to be burnt as clearing took place for nut plantations. Now I used mostly recycled timber for toy making, also off-cuts and scraps from sawmills and backyard pruning.

Evol - Apart from gloves and socks, which have a definite form, I make everything as the fancy takes me. I like to start anywhere and see where I end up. This way everything is unique and necessarily experimental.

Where does your inspiration come from?

Evol - Beautiful yarns provide a tactile almost sensuous pleasure and the yarns inspire me. There is a huge variety of natural yarns to choose from – wool, silk, cotton, linen, and bamboo, even banana. In the 1980's I stopped using patterns from books, as I wanted to knit to create and not be limited by preconceived ideas.

Why do you love about creating?

Allan - My toy making is simple in design and has proven reliable in the hands of youngsters and they get joy from being free to play freely with toys. Timber should be touched to gain ultimate satisfaction.

Evol - Knitting has the advantage of being completely portable, I knit as a car passenger, on playground duty, lectures, travelling by plane, bus or train and in concerts. There is no limit to what I can create, just using my imagination and the colours and textures in the myriad yarns available.

The Artist of the Month exhibition is on at Ferry Park Gallery Maclean till Wednesday 29th March.