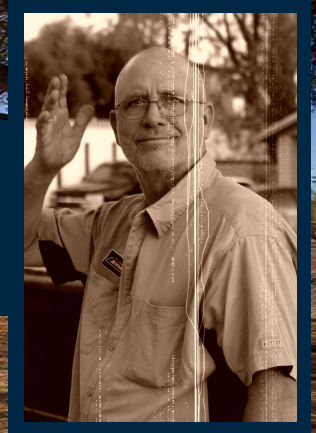


David Flynn

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Forging iron is like forming a personal relationship. The more you force it, the more it will fight you. Pay attention, and it will take you to miraculous places. - Samuel Yellen



▼ My Biography

Over the last 40 years, I have pursued my goal of becoming a professional artist and teacher. My work often starts with a loose concept, idea, or something found. Typically, I allow the process to gain momentum. Sketching, forging, and trust in the experience contribute to the outcome. Committing to an idea with a fearless approach is my best attribute, yet my worst enemy. For me, trial and error is often the best solution to a problem. Confidence and a no-give-up attitude are ultimately responsible for my pieces and often why they look effortless.

▼ Experience

Art Metals class is where I first learned the forging process. Both ferrous and non-ferrous. Starting with non-ferrous metal, copper, silver, and brass to make jewelry, iron, and ferrous metal would later become my primary chosen medium. Over time, I found true potential in blacksmithing, which is my passion, so much so that I sought out the best artists and blacksmiths to work with in years to come.

After a five-year stint teaching High School Art and coaching volleyball in South Central L.A., I needed a change. So, I sought out the best Artists and Blacksmiths I could find in North America, both nationally and internationally known. I did what I consider my Journeyman Experience for three consecutive years, working with "the best." Ultimately, I felt confident opening my own business, creating Commissioned Architectural, Private, and Public Art pieces for designers and homeowners alike.

My signature style, which remains to this day, is creating works of art that are timeless and seamless in construction. By this, I mean that using traditional joinery and choice of weld location is primary to the sophistication and respect of the work. Using the underlying theme of storytelling and display of craftsmanship is a priority.

1996, I established Diablo Forge as an artist/blacksmith and kept my doors open until 2015—almost 20 years. Due to a non-work-related accident, I could no longer teach or take on any sizable commissions, so I dissolved the company. Most of my tools and equipment were sold shortly after. I still make art by hand in a limited capacity using samples and materials I kept over the years. No, I do not have an anvil for sale. I sold them years ago. As heartbreaking as it was, I believe someone else is now pursuing their dream. Anvils are much like children. It's tough to let them go.

▼ Education

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

- Graduate Assistant in Beginning Sculpture and 3-D Design for two years.

Art, Compton, CA

- Head Coach for Women's Volleyball for two years.
- Art Teacher with five years of experience.

Central Illinois University, Charleston, IL

- I participated in the Summer Session focusing on figure sculpture.

Pima Community College, Tucson, AZ

- I completed two semesters in blacksmithing and knife making.

Marana High School, Marana, AZ

- Served as a Student Mentor Teacher for two semesters.

Steam Pump Ranch, Oro Valley, AZ

- Demonstrator at Farmers Market for two years.

▼ Honors and Awards

- Phoenix Art Museum, Purchase Award, Hook Curl
- Centennial Sculpture Competition, U of A Administration building
- George Gregson Scholarship
- Anne Moreton Memorial Scholarship
- Graduate Academic Achievement Award
- Interuniversity Arts Fellowship