TOLLEY MARNEY

SCULPTOR • FARRIER • BLACKSMITH

Contemporary Sculpture of the American West

TolleyMarney.com 2026

ARTIST PROFILE

I am a contemporary American sculptor whose work is rooted in the American West and a lifetime spent around horses, metal, and fire. For more than four decades, I have worked as a farrier and blacksmith, developing an intimate understanding of horses, animal movement, forging, and traditional craftsmanship.

Today, I bring that experience into my sculpture. I work with recycled steel, bronze, reclaimed wood, horseshoes, resin, and negative space to create contemporary works inspired by horses and wildlife of the American West.

My work reflects both my personal experience and my enduring connection to the Western landscape. I have exhibited through galleries and art events across the United States, and my work is held in private collections throughout the country.

SELECTED AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2021 — California Arts Council
Individual Artist Fellowship/Grant Program
I was selected for a California Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship/Grant program. Council records document a $50,000 allocation associated with the program.

2020 — California Arts Council / National Arts & Disability
I was recognized through the California Arts Council's National Arts & Disability program.

2017 — Best of Show
Northwest by Northwest Gallery / Cannon Beach Arts Events
I received Best of Show recognition at Cannon Beach arts events in Oregon. I won a complimentary advertising placement in *Southwest Magazine*.

2011 — 2015 Palm Springs City Hall Art Show - Feb., 2015, Feb 2014, Feb. 2012, Feb. 2011; Palm Springs, CA. "Commissioner's Choice" and other awards over the years.

2003 — First Prize
New Jersey Equine Art Expo
I was awarded First Prize for my equine artwork.

SELECTED ARTISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2025 — Home Studio & Garden Sculpture Exhibition
La Quinta, California
I presented a collection of original sculpture in a home studio and garden exhibition.

2024 — Yellowstone Valley Bronze Chess Set
Rancho Mirage, California
I presented the first public exhibition of the Yellowstone Valley Bronze Chess Set at an invitation art show.

2023 — Yellowstone Valley Bronze Chess Set
I completed a three-year sculptural project consisting of 32 one-of-a-kind bronze chess pieces representing native North American animals. The collection is accompanied by *The King's Table*, a handcrafted chess table incorporating stainless steel, copper, oak, and steel.

2019 — "Covenant"
My horse-head sculpture *Covenant*, combining forged steel with reclaimed antique wood, was documented by the California Arts and Disability Resource Center.

2018 — "Independence"
My sculpture *Independence* was documented by the California Arts and Disability Resource Center as part of my sculptural work.

GALLERY REPRESENTATION & EXHIBITION HISTORY

Valley Bronze Gallery — Joseph, Oregon
2020–2026

The Eadington Gallery — Tahoe City, California
2020–2023

Gallery 5830 — Truckee, California
2012–2023

Northwest by Northwest Gallery — Cannon Beach, Oregon
2014–2022

The Grand Fine Art — Jackson Hole, Wyoming
2012–2019

Bellatora Art Gallery — Truckee, California
2012–2014

Spirit Tahoe Interior Design & Gallery — Truckee, California
2009–2012

Balloon Fiesta, October 2011, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Westfest Arts Festival, March 2011, Palm Springs, CA

Lone Pine Film Museum, Lone Pine, CA 2010. Solo exhibit

Angela Romeo Art Gallery — Cathedral City, California
2008–2011

Roger Bouvier Reimers & Associates Design Center — Rancho Mirage, California
2003–2011

Stricher 39 Gallery, New York, NY 2003-2004

Denise Roberge — Palm Desert, California
2000–2003

SELECTED MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

My work has received coverage and recognition through Western and regional art publications and media, including:

Southwest Art *- Award of Merit included half-page advertisement. Dec. 2017.*

The Desert Sun — Rosalie Murphy, June, 4, 2015, Story by Rosalie Murphy and Beth Roessner Photographs and videos by Marilyn Chung.

Colliding World — hosted by Angela Romeo, Episode 31, October 31, 2013

Palm Springs Life — May 2002

Southwest Art - July 2001, "Start Your Collection", editorial feature of sculpture, page 50.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION

FARRIER & BLACKSMITH More than 40 years

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

College of the Desert, Palm Desert, California. May 2026 AA Degree in Art

California Ornamental Steel Contractor License C-23 1083027

FFA Agricultural Professional Member - Lifetime membership

Blacksmith Apprenticeship: Hugh Arthur, Last US Calvary Farrier Lee Green, Yucaipa Shoeing Shop, California.

For more than 40 years, I have worked as a farrier and blacksmith. My lifelong work with horses, steel, fire, forging, and hand tools along established the technical foundation for my sculptural practice.

Working closely with horses gave me an intimate understanding of animal anatomy, movement, balance, strength, and character. Those experiences continue to influence the way I approach sculpture.

The transition from functional blacksmithing and ornamental steel contracting to fine-art sculpture has been a natural evolution for me—a way of taking traditional craftsmanship and turning it into contemporary artistic expression.

ARTIST/BLACKSMITH in RESIDENCE and EDUCATOR

Tahoe Heritage Foundation Blacksmith Shop

- 2018 and 2019 Artist Summer July/Aug/Sept Residencies: Tallac Historical Site, South Lake Tahoe, CA. Blacksmith sculptor in residence. Tahoe Heritage Foundation Blacksmith Shop, demonstrating traditional forging and blacksmithing techniques while helping preserve the history and craft of the blacksmith's trade using a 1910 era coke forge; daily demos and conversations about the site history.
- MARS Conference, 2018, 2019: Taught blacksmith skills in all day workshop to top tech industry leaders. Palm Springs, CA.

MY ARTISTIC LANGUAGE

My sculpture exists at the intersection of **Western tradition, craftsmanship, imagination, and contemporary design**.

I work with recycled steel, forged steel, bronze, antique horseshoes, reclaimed wood, resin, and negative space. My subjects include horses, bison, wolves, mountain lions, deer, and other wildlife associated with the American West.

I am not simply trying to reproduce an animal. I capture the **movement, character, strength, and spirit**.

The shapes I see in my dreams have often become the beginning of my sculptural ideas. I allow those images to develop through the materials and through the physical process of forging, welding, shaping, and constructing.

My work reflects more than four decades of direct experience with horses, metal, fire, and the Western way of life. I bring together the practical knowledge of the farrier and blacksmith with the imagination of the sculptor.

COLLECTIONS

Private Collections

My work is represented in private collections throughout the United States.

Locations Include:

New York City, NY • Palm Springs, CA • Rancho Mirage, CA • La Quinta, CA • Santa Barbara, CA • San Francisco, CA • Truckee, CA • Tahoe City, CA • Incline Village, NV • Cannon Beach, OR • Jackson Hole, WY • Joseph, OR • Cody, WY

SIGNATURE BODY OF WORK

YELLOWSTONE VALLEY BRONZE CHESS SET

The Yellowstone Valley Bronze Chess Set represents one of the most ambitious projects of my artistic career.

I spent three years developing and creating the collection, ultimately producing **32 individually crafted bronze chess pieces**, each representing native North American wildlife. The pieces are accompanied by **The King's Table**, a monumental handcrafted chess table constructed from stainless steel, copper, oak, and steel.

The chess set brings together many of the elements that have defined my life and my work: animals, horses, blacksmithing, sculpture, craftsmanship, imagination, and the mythology of the American West.

It is not simply a chess set. It is a sculptural installation and a reflection of my lifelong relationship with the American West.

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