

Rick Urban Woodturner

Help Desk

On Inspiration

I call this work “Offering” because it is reminiscent of ceremonial offerings I have observed, but of more interest is how it came together at all.

I was running short of firewood with plenty of the winter left, so I began rummaging through past work I had kept with the aim of finding some to give me a bit of warmth. One of the pieces was a round bottom cherry bowl that I actually still liked so it went back into storage.

I had also accumulated a lot of raw materials out back which would surely yield enough for a comfy working temperature in the shop. Scanning the hodge podge behind my shop I almost hollered “Ah ha!” out loud. On a remote and seldom visited shelf I spied the perfect stove-sized pieces of branch that had not made it to finished platter stands.

As I started to cut the too-long-for-the-stove branches I felt another “Ah ha!” happening. I retrieved the aforementioned round bottom cherry bowl and held it in the *rose of sharon* branch for a better view of what they might look like together. I was satisfied enough to take the next step and grind away the unnecessary parts of the branch only to discover it wasn't very stable and a slight nudge would topple the works. Time to give mother nature some help! With the former branch now a stand with an additional fabricated branch, it was now stable. After cleaning up the surface with a wire brush I painted it flat black and marched the newly married couple in to seek the opinion of my greatest fan and most important critic.



Revisiting past work with more experienced eyes can yield unexpected pleasant surprises.

I don't think it's my favorite work of all time, but I like it, and it serves to remind me that inspiration lurks around many corners, and we should be alert and receptive to noticing it.

For more information visit my website

<http://RickUrbanWoodturner.com/>

or email me

RickUrbanWoodturner@gmail.com or

Rick@RickUrbanWoodturner.com



Changing the way you think about wood... one piece at a time.