

Finely Crafted in Vermont

By Alex Aldrich and Kathleen Wanner

People have been “discovering” Vermont for a very long time.

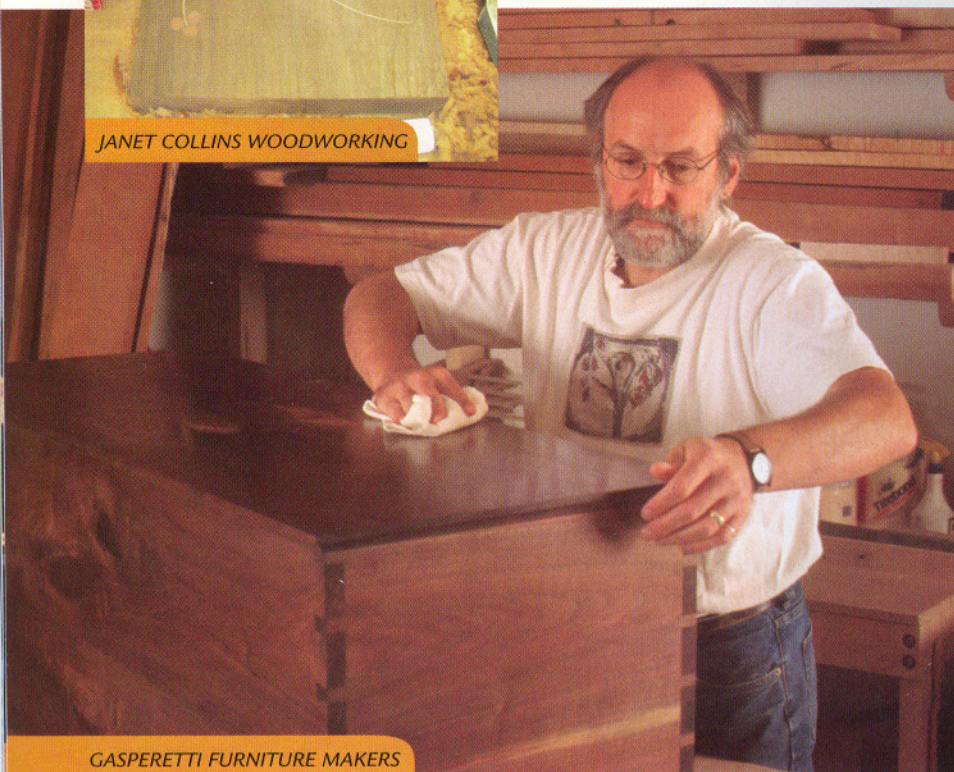
If you’re like most, you first “discovered” Vermont on a family summer vacation, foliage tour, a school trip, a retreat with friends, or because you just had to see where your favorite nationally distributed Vermont products are made.

It’s clear why people come to Vermont the first time. What is less well-known are the reasons they return: among them, the fine products created by wood manufacturers, Vermont artisans, and crafters.



JANET COLLINS WOODWORKING

In a state that is almost 85% forested, is it any surprise that we have so many wood artisans? In nearly every city, town, and village you’ll find small wood products industries and craftspeople working with wood. Whether in factories or small workshops, all pride themselves on the excellence, integrity, and authenticity that defines their work. Much of their inspiration comes from living and working



GASPERETTI FURNITURE MAKERS



IRIS MOVING ON-RICK SCHNEIDER OF VERMONT CUSTOM WOODWORKING

OCEANA COFFEE TABLE-MARIO MESSINA OF MARIO MESSINA DESIGNER CRAFTSMAN



in such a beautiful and peaceful natural environment. They are otherwise motivated by the longstanding tradition of quality craftsmanship that dates back more than two hundred years – a testament to Yankee pride.

The state’s wood artisans feel a connection with the forests and the prized northern hardwoods sustainably harvested and prudently used to the wood’s best advantage. These woodcrafters and fine furniture makers produce award-winning value-added wood products that are functional, innovative, and decorative. Some are making reproductions and adaptations of early styles. Some are creating innovative one-of-a-kind pieces. Others are blending tradition with personal expression. All are contributing to the evolution of a Vermont style of woodworking that unites the skills of the builder, imagination of the designer, needs of the customer, and characteristics of the wood.

STATEWIDE ARTISAN RESOURCES

Vermont Arts Council

www.vermontartscouncil.org

Vermont Crafts Council

www.vermontcrafts.com

Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing Travel Planner

www.vermontvacation.com

(find artisans by searching under the “shopping” criteria)

Vermont Handcrafters, Inc.

www.vermonthandcrafters.com

Vermont Wood

Manufacturers Association

www.vermontwoodproducts.org

From the forest to furniture and finished wood products, you'll find fine craftsmanship, creativity, and lasting value as hallmark characteristics of Vermont's quality wood products.

In many cases, our wood manufacturers welcome visitors, and tours are available with advance notice. Please call the businesses below for hours or an appointment!

Barnoire Furniture, 245 Lincoln Rd., Williston, 888-660-BARN, www.barnoire.com

Cotswold Furniture, 132 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 802-253-3710, www.cotswoldfurniture.com

Granville Bowl Mill, 45 Mill Rd., Granville, 800-828-1005, www.bowlmill.com



Maple Landmark, 1297 Exchange St., Middlebury, 800-421-4223, www.maplelandmark.com

New Wing Designs, 281 The Bend Rd., Greensboro Bend, 802-533-9836

Newport Panels, North Troy, 802-334-2360, www.newportpanels.com

Vermont Natural Coatings, 180 Junction Rd., Hardwick, 802-472-8700, www.vermontnaturalcoatings.com

Wood & Wood Signs, 98 Carroll Rd., Waitsfield, 802-496-3000, www.woodandwoodsigns.com

Alex Aldrich, Executive Director of the Vermont Arts Council (www.vermontartscouncil.org), and Kathleen Wanner, Assistant Director of the Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association, (www.vermontwood.com) contributed to this feature.

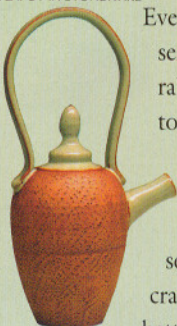
A Sampling of Vermont Galleries - Shop in Person or Online!

Many visitors are already familiar with the Vermont arts scene, but less discovered are those dedicated artisans working in our rolling green hills, who carve, sew, knit, blow, cast - and other verbs too numerous to mention - in pursuit of stunning works of "functional art" that call to you on many levels.



ARTISANS' GALLERY

MICHAEL SULLIVAN, TALL TEAPOT IN STONEWARE



Even if you're planning a short visit, stop in to crafters' shops and select the perfect wedding or holiday gift, one that is more memorable than the typical registry purchases. Or it could be something to showcase or complement the new Vermont-made side table you just purchased.

Everywhere you may wander in Vermont, you will find yourself within an easy drive of very high-quality and affordable handcrafted works. If you have a couple of weeks to spend...well, all the better. And if you just can't visit in person, the internet can be your personal shopping service. Many Vermont galleries have websites - your very own delightful piece of Vermont is only a click away!

Artisans' Gallery, 20 Bridge St., Waitsfield, www.vtartisansgallery.com

Artisans Hand, 89 Main St., Montpelier, www.artisanshand.com

Art on Main, 25 Main Street #A, Bristol, www.artonmain.net

Blinking Light Gallery, 53 Main St., Plainfield, www.blinkinglightgallery.com

Brandon Artists' Guild, 7 Center St., Brandon, www.brandonartistsguild.org

Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville, www.bryanmemorialgallery.org

Center Street Artisans, 11 Center St., Rutland, www.centerstreetartisans.com

Collective-The Art of Craft, Inc., 47 Central St., Woodstock, www.collective-theartofcraft.com

Frog Hollow, Manchester Center at 4716 Main St.; Middlebury at 1 Mill St., and in Burlington on the Church Street Marketplace, www.froghollow.org

Gallery 103, Rte. 103, Chester, www.junkerstudio.com

Little River Hotglass Studio, 593 Moscow Rd., Moscow, www.littleriverhotglass.com

Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, 430 Railroad St., Saint Johnsbury

Pine Street Art Works, 404 Pine St., Burlington, www.pinestreetartworks.com

Sleeper House Gallery of Art, Home Accessories, and Gifts, 299 Mountain Rd., Stowe, www.sleeperhouse.com

Vermont Artisan Design, 105 Main St., Brattleboro, www.vtartisans.com

Vermont Forgings, 41 Cook Dr., Wallingford, www.vermontforgings.com

Virtual Reallery, www.virtualreallery.com

Wooden Horse Arts Guild, North Troy, www.woodenhorsearts.com



RIB TWIST BOTTLE, ARTISANS HAND