



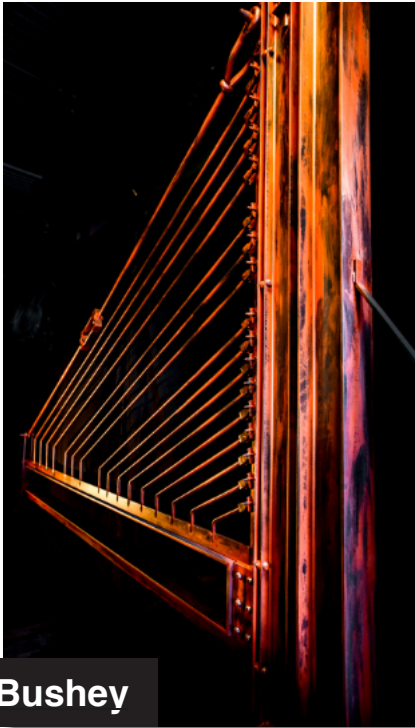
Spring Conference 2022

California Blacksmith Association

April 2022



Nick Anderson



Jesse & Aaron Bushey



Douglas Pryor

Demonstrators



Peter Braspennix



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Monica Coyne



Caleb Kullman



Pavel Tasovský

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Special Guest: Pavel Tasovský



Peter Braspenninx

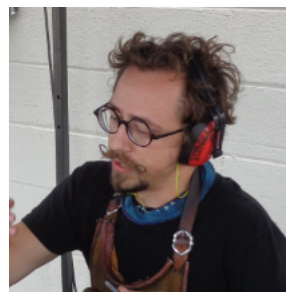
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Late-Breaking News

We have added an exciting smith from New Mexico to our roster. Caleb Kullman comes to blacksmithing by way of anthropology and farriery. Along the way, he worked with Tom Joyce and has been operating his shop in Santa Fe since 2014.

We did have plans to have Claudio Bottero visit us at Petaluma. Unfortunately, he has developed medical issues that make it impossible to both fulfill his business obligations and also visit with us. We wish him a complete and speedy recovery.



Special Guest:

Pavel Tasovský

Náměšť nad Oslavou, Czech Republic



At press time, we are inviting Pavel Tasovsky to come to visit with us at Petaluma. He was also on deck for the canceled Ferndale 2020 Spring Conference.

He graduated from the School of Artistic Craftsmanship in Prague with his graduation work “Zvěrokruh” (Zodiac) in 1978. During 1981-82, in the Moravské muzeum (Moravian museum) in Brno, he attended and graduated from the professional course of museum conservators – specializing in metal and wood. During 1998 – 99, he attended and graduated from the Master’s School of Artistic Craftsmanship in Prague with the graduation work Hamounovo křeslo (Hamoun’s Easy Chair).

The main focus of his blacksmith's studio is the realization of orders for historical buildings, but also for contemporary architecture. Many graduates of art schools pass through his workshop. In 2016 - 2018 he and his son were the lecturers of the three-year blacksmithing school in Brussels, School for Conservation Craft.





Nick Anderson Oakland, Ca

Nick Anderson started down the path of bladesmithing while living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for 5 years. Thanks to the help of other makers, and

the openly-shared wealth of knowledge in the online bladesmithing community, Nick was able to learn everything needed for building the tools and machinery required to get started, and to learn the many skills required for the craft itself, to learn all of the key components to what makes a good knife, and what are the best practices are in creating them.



For his entire life, Nick has pursued the creative arts, starting with illustration and glass art, and later branching out into metal fabrication, bronze sculpture and metal jewelry, with bladesmithing now being his primary pursuit.

Nick has had the opportunity of meeting and learning from talented makers and metalsmiths along the way, including Che Americano, James Austin, Salem Straub, Sean Monaghan, Karen Christians and more who've helped Nick further his knowledge in regards to forging, knife construction, fabrication, casting, and non-ferrous metalsmithing techniques.





Peter Braspenninx
Michigan

Pete Braspenninx, owner of Phyre Forge, is a graduate of the University of Michigan school of art and design (2004).

He is an artist, blacksmith, and educator. His work has been shown, collected, and published nationally and internationally. His work focuses primarily on building shape and line through visual connections and joinery using traditional skills to make modern forms. He also does architectural iron work along with sculptural work



Pete's work has been published in Anvil's Ring, and De Klinknagel (Belgium). He has demonstrated at varied blacksmithing events, and conducted workshops at major craft centers. He has exhibited widely, including a solo show at the Metal Museum in 2018.





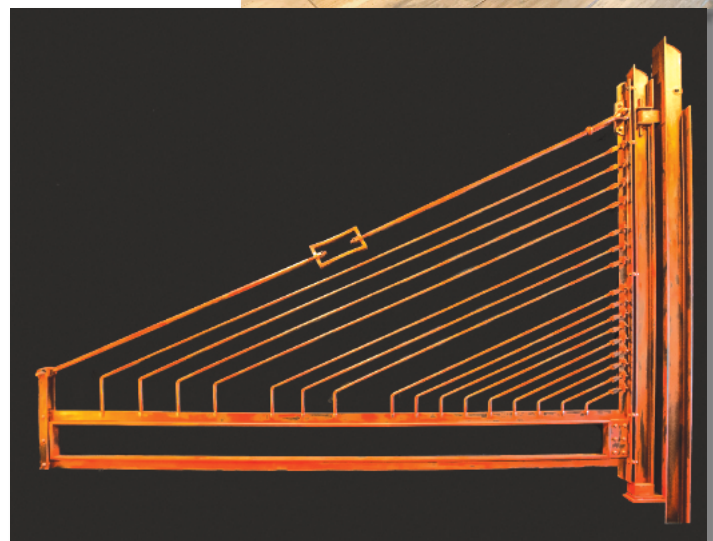
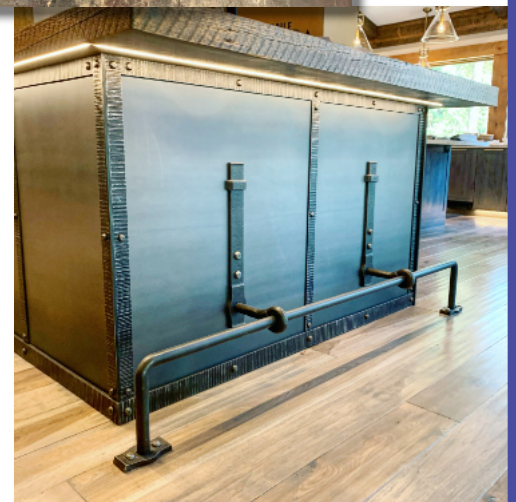
Jesse & Aaron Bushey Kings Beach, Ca

Jesse was first introduced to blacksmithing as a high school student when he completed an independent study near his hometown of Cabot, Vermont.

When he moved to Tahoe in 2001, he sought out the local blacksmith shop, began sweeping the floors and quickly became an apprentice.



After many years of learning the trade, pursuing lessons from expert smiths across the US and Europe, traveling to learn, and living to forge, he finally called himself a blacksmith. In 2010, Jesse and a partner struck out on their own, forming Striker Forge. Their work over nearly seven years included many significant projects as far afield as the Four Seasons hotel in Aman, Jordan, for which they built intricate and airy room dividers, and as close to home as the many Tahoe houses they filled with a wide array of ironwork styles. In 2017 Jesse and Aaron created their own entity, Bushey Ironworks.





Monica Coyne Ettersberg, Ca

Trained as a professional blacksmith, Monica's technique is traditional, but her goal is to contradict the nature of the medium. Steel is heavy and hard. Using the strength of the material Monica will create forms that look and feel light and soft.



“The strength of steel offers me the opportunity to experiment with balance and asymmetry. Its versatility provides the ability to create surprising forms.”

Mesmerized by the movement of the metal and equally by the transitions and connections that our brains have devised for binding the pieces, Monica makes pieces that balance, move and can come apart. Trained in Industrial Arts, she was taught that the beauty of a piece of work was found in its function.

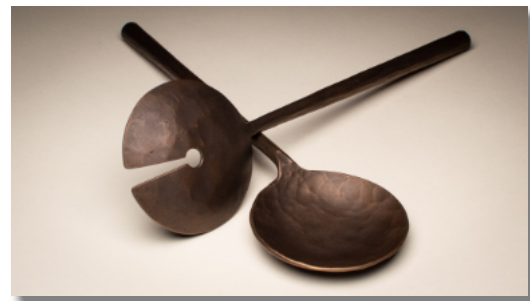
Monica has demonstrated extensively at metalworking conferences across the US. Her work has been published Nationally and Internationally in Metall Design International 2020, “HEPHAISTOS” the International German Metalworks Magazine, Fine Homebuilding Magazine, “NOMMA” magazine, “Ironwork Today 4” and “Skills of a Blacksmith, Traditional Joinery” by Mark Aspery. Her work has been featured in many galleries across the US, including a solo show at The Metal Museum, Memphis, Tennessee.





Caleb Kullman
Santa Fe, NM

Initially my interest in blacksmithing was born out of a desire to experience something completely new and different from the academic path I had been following for the majority of my life to that point. After earning my B.A. in Anthropology in 1993, I wanted to pursue blacksmithing further, so I subsequently apprenticed with Tom Joyce in Santa Fe. Once I saw the old tools and big machines in his studio, and experienced first hand the range and depth of creative expression that was possible through forging, I knew that I wanted to pursue blacksmithing as a career.



Designing and building forged architectural metalwork was challenging to say the least, but it offered a creative outlet and an opportunity to produce a body of work that is a permanent record of my journey as a craftsman. Because the scale of architectural work can be large, and you need to be able to forge, machine and fabricate.

Not only do I feel driven to produce finely crafted work in an aesthetic sense, but also to carry on the knowledge, skill and traditions of such a noble craft, and to be able to pass these skills on to future generations.

Every time I lift my hammer, or turn on an antique machine in my studio, I am reminded that I am not the first person to have used those tools, and that there is a common thread of dedication and commitment to workmanship that runs through all of my tools and machines.





Douglas Pryor
Rocklin, Ca

As a method-driven artist, I use my compositions to explore ways to push the limitations of a single piece of material with only human power and hand tools. I take particular delight in pursuing challenging and realistic detail in high-relief metal sculpture. I use my work to explore the nuanced and evolving relationship between humans and the natural world, and the ways that we connect with ourselves and each other.



Douglas Pryor is a raising and chasing artist located in northern California. He began sculpting in sheet metal in 2005 by creating fully articulated steel suits of armor for full contact sports, which in fact was how he paid for college. Frustrated with the limited detail and relief that shaping stakes could provide, he began to incorporate sculpting with pitch in 2013 and felt like he had found what he had been missing. As he continues to build upon his technical ability, he enjoys making more room for narrative with his work. Each piece is an opportunity to sate curiosity and a chance to build a bridge to others in a meaningful way.

