



A DIFFERENT KIND OF URN

No boxes. No jars. No kitsch.
Hand-made bronze & ceramic funerary urns
by sculptor DAVID ORTH

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Introduction

These critically acclaimed bronze & ceramic urns are handcrafted one at a time by David Orth himself. A longtime Chicago sculptor, David is now working from his studio in Northwest Arkansas. Each urn has a unique texture and a fully developed, museum quality patina. Their simple, surprising forms are heartfelt, smart, & hauntingly beautiful. Like snowflakes & people, no two urns are exactly alike.

The openings are hidden on the bottom of the urns (or on the back as noted) and can be opened & closed securely as needed. The bronze urns can be placed indoors or outdoors in a garden. Custom sizes are available for all the bronze urns - as well as inscriptions, unique designs, & custom patinas.

Ceramic urns start at \$475. Bronze urns start at \$875. If you have questions or are ready to order, please contact David directly by phone, text, or email.

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Sunset Sunrise Urn
12.75" dia x 3.75" deep - 15" high with stand
200 cubic inches
\$1650

The Sunset Sunrise Urn is inspired by all manner of spherical cosmic bodies - the sun, the planets, the many moons of our solar system. It comes with an easel as shown, but it also looks good flat on a shelf or table. The opening is on the back of the urn. The easel is not suitable for outdoors and should not be displayed this way in a windy location. Shown with optional [Gold Stardust](#).

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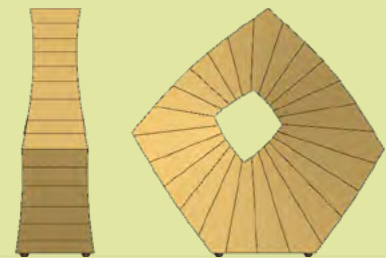
Eclipse Urn
15" wide x 8" high x 4" deep
200 cubic inches
\$1800

What's in a name? I guess we need to have names so we can talk about the same things. I enjoying finding good names for these urns, but then I have to pick one - darn it. This one could have been 'Wings,' 'Arc,' 'Broken Wheel,' 'Ring,' 'Half Moon' . . . you are welcome to rename any of these urns as you see fit and most meaningful to you. Names are a suggestion of meaning, but not a limit to the fabric of the wordless sensemaking of abstract sculpture forms.

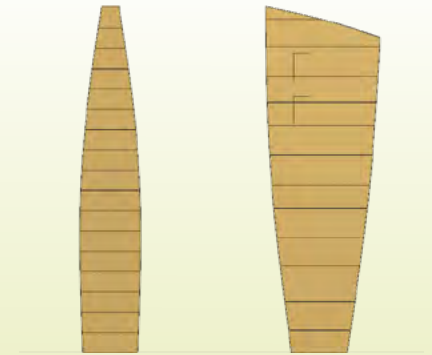
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Rolling Stone Urn
13.25" tall x 13.5" wide x 4.25" deep
200 cubic inches
\$2700



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Watchtower Urn
18.75" tall x 6.25" wide x 3.25" deep
200 cubic inches
\$1800

Note: Because this urn has a smaller footprint,
it is not suitable for windy placement.

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Tree Urn

18.75" tall x 8.75" wide x 4.5" deep
190 cubic inches
\$2400

I love trees, but I struggled a long while designing an urn honoring trees & their meaning. Trees are lovely, generous, and powerful symbols for so many people.



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Lotus Urn

20.5" wide x 6.5" high x 4.5" deep

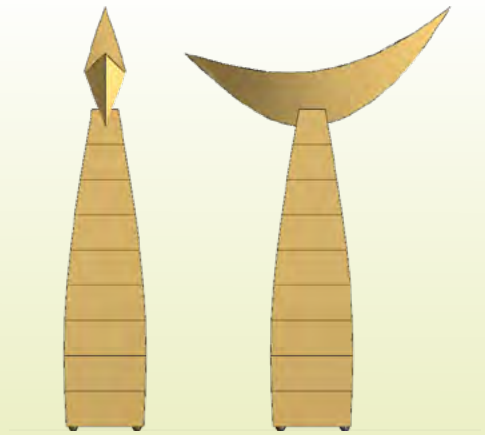
200 cubic inches

\$1800

Two of my favorite kayak trips take me up river in Illinois and Arkansas to astonishing patches of American Lotus growing right there in the shallows. If I am lucky, I discover them in full bloom. The lotus deserves it's ancient reputation as a symbol of awakening and transformation.



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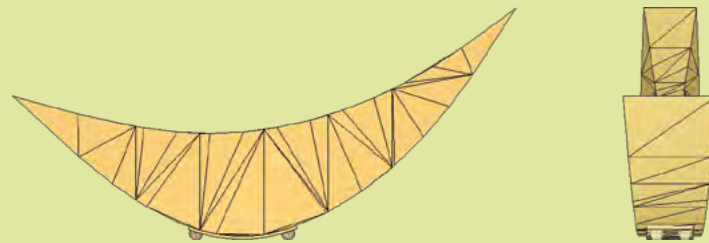


Moon Urn
22.5" tall x 14" wide x 4.5" deep
200 cubic inches
\$2100





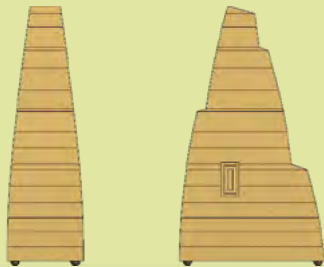
Luna Urn
11" tall x 24" wide x 4." deep
150 cubic inches
\$2000



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Heart of the Mountain Urn
13.75" tall x 7.75" wide x 4.125" deep
200 cubic inches
\$2400



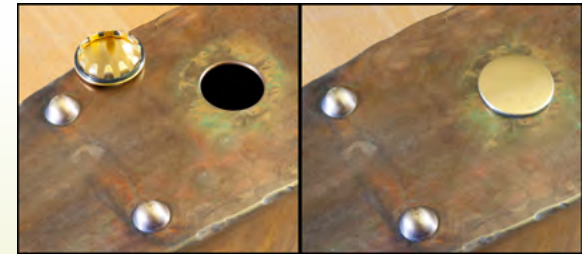
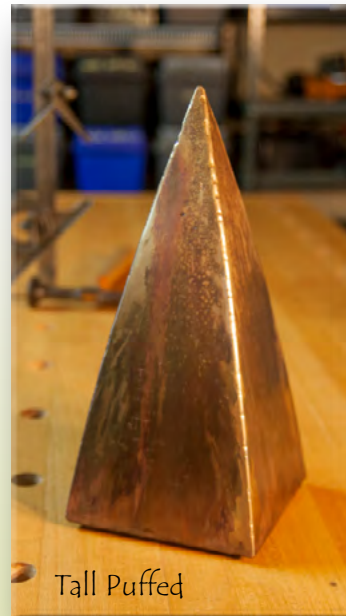
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Custom Pyramid Urns

These urns can be made tall and narrow - or the expansive proportions of the Great Pyramid of Giza - or a medium form in between. The opening on the Pyramid urns is circular with a press-fit brass cap. It works easily and keeps the price down.

Custom Pyramid Urns of 160 cubic inches: \$875

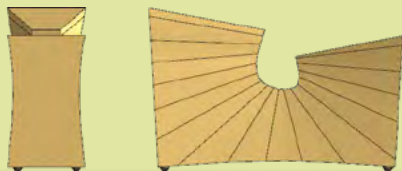
Options: Notice the "puffed" pyramid with the subtle side bulge. Any of the pyramid urns can be puffed for an additional \$125. If you prefer the classic opening with brass screws and bronze cover please add \$250.



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Phoenix Urn
13.75" wide x 8.5" high x 4.25" deep
200 cubic inches
\$1800



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Zen Bowl Urn
16" wide x 6.5" high x 4" deep
190 cubic inches
\$1800

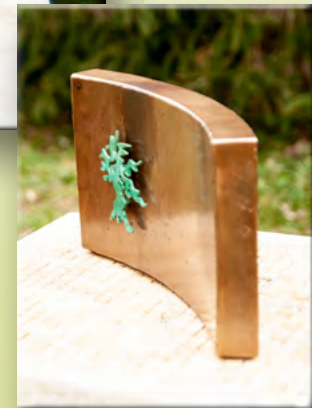
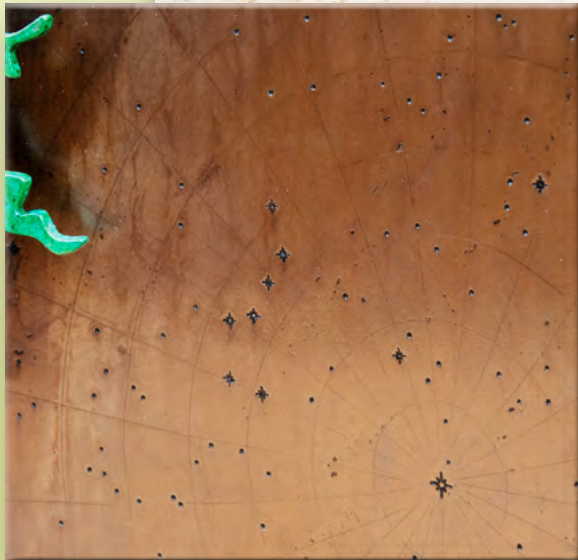
Shown above with optional [Gold Stardust](#).

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Aladdin's Urn
16.5" tall X 11" wide X 5.5" deep
175 cubic inches
\$2000

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Starfield Urn – with choice of symbol
8.875" tall x 16.5" wide x 3.25" deep
200 cubic inches
\$2400

Accurate star map of the night sky on an elegant, sweeping curve.
Choose your symbol – choices follow in the catalog. If you prefer no
symbol, deduct \$200. The opening on the Starfield Urn is on the back.

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Far Hills Urn - with choice of Symbol
10.25 tall x 11.5" wide x 3.5" deep
200 cubic inches
\$2700

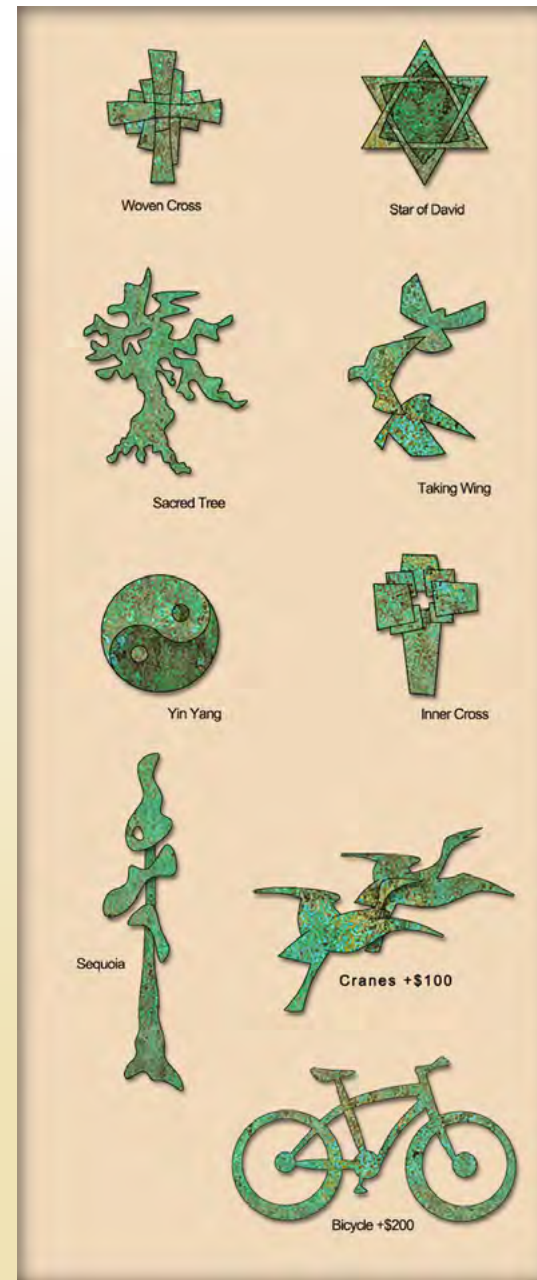
Symbol choices follow in the catalog.
The opening on the Far Hills Urn is on
the back behind the symbol.

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Symbols for the Starfield & Far Hills Urns

A selection of symbols are available for these two urns - see previous pages. Every symbol is carefully designed as a rich, original graphic and made of solid bronze - each a jewel. The verdigris patina is a lovely contrast to the classic bronze patina. With noted exceptions, the price is included with the Starfield & Far Hills urns. If you don't want a symbol, deduct \$200.

Option: While not all ideas will be possible to accommodate, please feel free to request something you don't see here. A customization charge will apply.





Custom Urns for Niches

Do you need an urn that will fit a niche or other enclosed space? I can customize several of the urn designs to fit your niche in a columbarium or mausoleum. Let me know your size restrictions and I'll be happy to explore the possibilities with you. Custom niche urns are available at no extra charge or reduction in volume.

Custom Pyramid Urn - Niche Version
8.25" x 8.25" x 8.5" - 160 cubic inches
\$875

Custom Far Hills - Niche Version (see [symbol options](#))
8.5" x 8.5" x 4.25" - 200 cubic inches
\$2400

Custom Starfield - Niche Version (see [symbol options](#))
8.5" x 8.5" x 4" - 200 cubic inches
\$2400



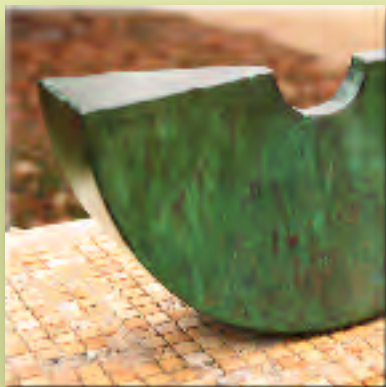
Standard, Medium-Classic Patina
No additional cost.

Bronze Patinas

Bronze can take on a variety of striking hues depending on the surface treatment it receives. These patinas are natural, complex interactions between bronze, old patina recipes, & the weather. This delicate unpredictability makes each urn uniquely beautiful within the loose range of color that you have chosen. These are fine art patinas, not the bland, production patinas commonly seen on commercial urns.

The Medium Classic patina to the left is standard at no extra charge. Four custom choices are available below. One more patina option is shown on the website: [light verdigris](#).

Custom Patinas
Plus \$250



dark verdigris



blue turquoise

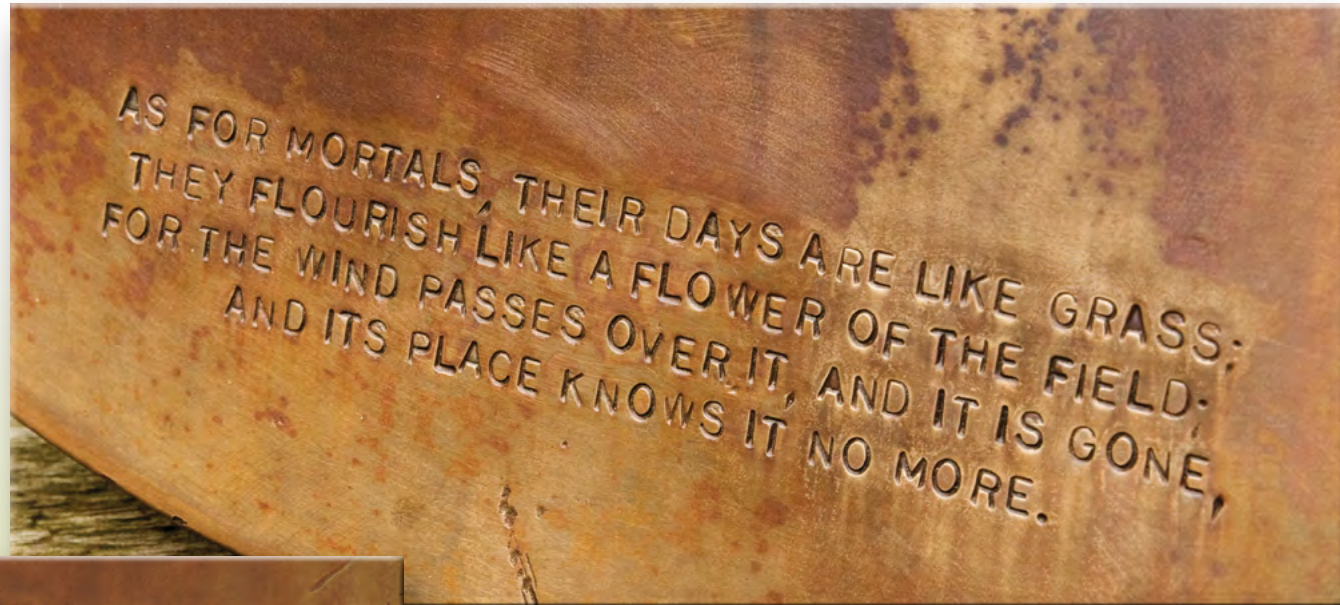


dark classic



light classic

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Custom Inscriptions

A name and dates, phrase, or paragraph can be stamped directly into the bronze urns during the building process. The typeface is about 5/32" high, simple, elegant, and just right for bronze.

It is all uppercase and can include numbers and all text symbols.

\$2 per character - spaces are not counted - \$75 minimum.

These inscriptions are subtle and do not distract from the overall urn design. After you submit your text and any thoughts you may have on placement, you will receive a line drawing to approve - or edit as needed.

Changes will be made in the design until it is just right. Short inscriptions often go on the [cover plate](#).

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Gold Stardust

I stand with Joni Mitchell - that we are stardust - and golden.
Consider a touch of gold - a flicker of light against the darker bronze. This is real gold leaf. Scientists recently proved that gold is formed & dispersed in the rare collisions between neutron stars.
Yes. Neutron stardust. Right here.
\$55

Shown here on the Zen Bowl Urn.

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Hidden Opening

The openings are on the underside - or the back of the urn if indicated. Note the solid brass screws & the bronze coverplate - sometimes rectangular, sometimes round. A gasket is attached behind the plate creating a tight seal with the urn body. The coverplate is a good place for a short inscription - such as a name and dates. Also note the little integrated feet that the urn will rest on when placed upright. Please see the Pyramid Urn page about their unique press-in closure.

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Ceramic Urns

These affordable ceramic urns are handmade & finished by David in polychrome acrylic on stoneware. A solid brass, screw-out opening is hidden on the base of the urn as shown below.

Ceramic urns are for indoor use only. Pictured in this section are the actual available urns. Indicate the urn name & unique number when making your selection.

Lotus Urn Ceramic #19
24" w x 8" h x 5.25" d
230 cubic inches



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Rolling Stone Urn Ceramic #23
15" w x 13.75" h x 4.5" d
170 cubic inches
\$475



Ascent Urn Ceramic #24
11.5" w x 17.25" h x 5.5" d
240 cubic inches
\$775





Ascent Urn Ceramic #25
11.5" w x 17.25" h x 5.5" d
240 cubic inches
\$775





Natural Poplar



Antique Lacquer

The Urn Pedestal

23.5" wide x 2.5" high x 6.75" deep

Natural Poplar \$175

Antique Lacquer \$225

This solid wood platform establishes a place of honor and beauty by elevating the urn, framing it, & providing a space to include a small flower or other keepsake. Choose natural poplar or antique lacquer.

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Price List & Summary

Ceramic Urns\$375

Bronze Urns:

Sunset/Sunrise Urn\$1650
 Eclipse Urn\$1800
 Rolling Stone Urn\$2700
 Watchtower Urn\$1800
 Tree Urn\$2400
 Lotus Urn\$1800
 Moon Urn\$2100
 Luna Urn\$2000
 Heart of the Mountain Urn\$2400
 Pyramid Urns\$875
 Phoenix Urn\$1800
 Zen Bowl Urn\$1800
 Starfield Urn & Symbol\$2400
 Far Hills Urn & Symbol\$2700

Three Easy Steps

1. Choose an urn design
2. Consider your options
3. Contact David with your questions

David will walk you through questions & details.
 Payment is arranged through PayPal.
 Standard urns (no customization) are returnable for any reason during first 10 days.

Options

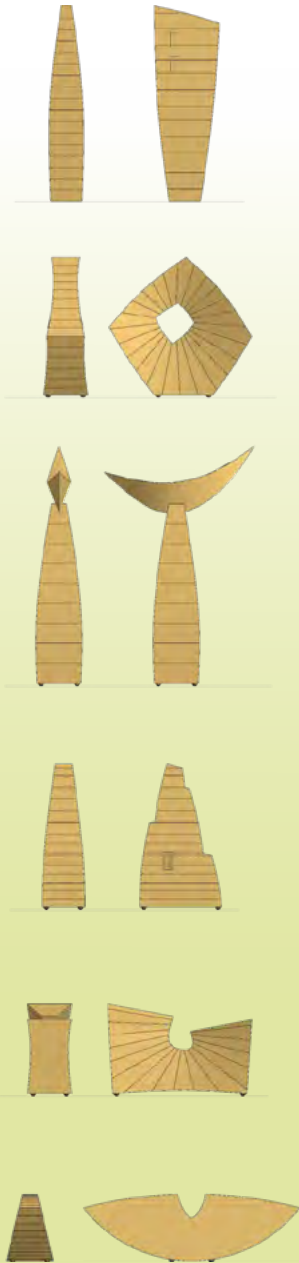
[Inscriptions for Bronze Urns](#)..... \$2 per character, \$75 minimum (spaces not counted)
[Custom Patina for Bronze Urns](#).... \$250 (medium classic patina is standard at no extra charge)
[Urn Pedestal](#) Natural Poplar \$175 or Traditional Lacquer \$225
[Gold Stardust](#)\$55.
 Custom Sizes & Designs Please ask

Packing, Shipping & Insurance

ground service in the lower 48 states \$65
 faster/further servicePlease ask

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Shipping & Return Information

Shipping

While some urns are available for immediate delivery, in most cases please allow 14 days for building and 3 or 4 days for delivery. Let me know your time constraints - a good effort will be made to accommodate your need. Ground shipping within the 48 states will cost \$65. Faster or further shipping options are available and will be quoted on request. Someone must be home to sign at delivery unless you can guarantee a safe place for the driver to leave a package. In which case you may request "No Signature Required."

Return Policy

All standard urns (no customization) may be returned for any reason whatsoever for a refund or exchange within the first 10 days. They must arrive back in new condition. Obtain return authorization by contacting David Orth. Shipping costs cannot be refunded. Custom urns (including urns with inscriptions, custom sizes, and custom finishes) are fully guaranteed, but not returnable. On the rare occasion I make a mistake on your order, I will of course correct it and cover shipping.

"I have often suspected that the most profound product of this world is tears."
- C. Bourgeault

FAQ

[Click this link for frequently asked questions.](#)

It'll take you to the FAQ page on my website.

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Testimonials & Reviews

Critics & Public Media

"Orth's art is amazing...overwhelming...the primal versus the ethereal. Rock and roll...the blues...arias."
James A. Mangum, author of the Dos Cruces Trilogy

"Fabulous ... mess-with-your-mind appeal."
Sandy Hill, Studio Hill Design, Albuquerque, NM

Orth's urns were featured in the [LA Times, October 31, 2015: "Artisanal Urns"](#)

Past creative director for [Wired](#) & [Rolling Stone](#) magazines, Eric Siry, blogging on designer urns: "David Orth makes sculptural bronze urns that are my favorite of all the ones I found during my research for this post. They look primitive enough to be timeless, with a monumental look on a small scale. I would want any of these in my home even if there wasn't a need for it. The combination of form, material, and patina is worthy of an eternal resting-place."

Personal Testimonials

"The urn has arrived and it absolutely the most appropriate and stunning work for my husband's resting place....and for all of us to enjoy and remember our beloved. He would be pleased and that so makes me smile through the tears of missing him so. Not only do you have talent, but your compassion and care shows in your work as well with each correspondence. That means so much. Thank you again, David, for your kindness and making this happen before his celebration of life gathering here at our home.

Terri L. - Ohio - Far Hills Urn

"I received the urn today and I am so happy with how it turned out - it is simply perfect! This was the final piece needed for this sad and painful time in my life and I am so happy that I found someone who made the experience an easy and seamless one from beginning to end."
Liz S. - Brooklyn - Custom Companion Urn

"You have done a beautiful job - such a fitting gift. I'm really glad that you agreed to keep my brother in mind whilst you finished the piece. I went out to Windsor Great Park - a very old park owned by the Queen and not far from the Castle - and transferred my brother's ashes. Both the park and the urn will always be a memorial to him, and I want to thank you again for being so kind and caring, and for producing such a lovely piece of work."

Perry G. - London - Watch Tower Urn

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Testimonials Continued . . .

"The hand-crafted workmanship far surpassed my expectations! Thank you again for creating something very special in a market that is flooded with mediocrity.

Phil K. - Palm Springs, CA - Phoenix & Moon Urns

"I now know why I hadn't done anything sooner. If I had I would not have found something that was so fitting - it's perfect. In fact my son had the ashes placed in it last night and both my children have decided that it is too nice to be in the garden, therefore at the moment it is sitting on our fireplace. Thank you once again and I will certainly recommend you to anybody.

Caroline S. - Barking, UK - Watch Tower Urn

"The urn arrived today and it is everything I hoped for. It will bring me much comfort and peace as I move forward in my life without Steve at my side."

Donna K. - Virginia - Rolling Stone Urn

"Your work is truly wonderful. I received the urn on Monday and it was packaged very carefully and shipped fine. My words cannot express the beauty and the tenderness I felt when I placed my father's ashes in your work. It is placed on the dining room table which overlooks the California coast to share both my Father's loving memory and the natural flow of your art."

Jim C. - Laguna Niguel, CA - Rivercraft Urn

"It arrived today and it is perfect! Thank you for such a beautiful piece and careful packaging. It will be cherished by many for years to come. I hope you continue to bless people with your wonderful artistic talents. You've been an absolute pleasure to work with."

Arwen S. - St. Petersburg, FL - Watchtower Urn

"The family agrees, I did a good job choosing you to build our mother's urn. You do quite excellent, beautiful work. We are all very pleased. Thanks so much."

Wesley R. - USA - Eclipse Urn

"The urn arrived today as you said it would. It is very, very nice, and I love it. Very delicate and precise work."

Jan S., MD - New Hampshire - Heart of the Mountain Urn

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Visit David's primary website at <http://www.OrthSculpture.com>



Photo by Lee Weitzman

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The Artist

David Orth works in wood, bronze, steel, and other materials to make sculpture, furniture, liturgical art, and ceremonial objects. In his early days as a furniture maker David was surprised when folks dropped by his studio to discuss cremation urns. Over many years, as these requests continued, David came to appreciate the need for better & more meaningful design in such a neglected corner of human life. More urns followed in between the other projects, until finally one day an exasperated artist friend raised her voice insisting he make them more easily available to the public.

While his thought process is long & complex, the art arrives to our eyes & hands as simple, surprising forms - worn by time & life. Author James A. Mangum says, "Orth's art is amazing, overwhelming . . . the primal vs. the ethereal . . . rock and roll, the blues, arias."

David has taught Sculpture and Designed Objects at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago & has a graduate degree in philosophy from Northwestern University. He teaches woodworking, metalworking, and boat building. He co-leads [trips to Japan](#) with a focus on Japanese aesthetics. A longtime Chicago sculptor, David is now working from his studio in Northwest Arkansas.



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