

SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS TO USE FOR INSPIRATION/GUIDANCE

Scott Johnson
Atkinson, NE
Sami-Style Knife

This is a Sámi-style knife, with kolrosing in Sámi fashion. The Sámi people often used reindeer bone for the handle and sheath, so I used American Holly, the whitest wood in the world, to replicate that material. The blade is laminated steel and the leather is half-tanned German leather. The kolrosing was done with powdered black walnut bark then sealed with Danish oil. I have admired Sámi knives for many years and I also love to carve kolrosing. I learned how to make a wood sheath in K.J. Groven's knife class at Vesterheim. This gave me the skills to carve kolrosing a Sámi-style knife.

I have been making knives for three years. My ancestors came from Utsira, Norway, a small island in the North Sea. I have a passion for Norwegian folk art, I grew up around it and never noticed it until four years ago. It is never too late to be inspired!

Rosemary Roehl, Gold Medalist
St. Cloud, MN
Fall

Fall is a contemporary woven wall hanging in a figurative bound weave using a rose path tie-up. The design is my own. I enjoy playing around with the colors of the season to create trees, shrubs, and flowers.

I am a self-taught weaver in the Norwegian tradition. I feel in love with Norwegian weavings during my first trip to Norway in 1972. Soon after I took a community educator course in St. Cloud, MN, to learn about looms. I started competing in the Vesterheim *National Norwegian-American Folk Art Exhibition* in 1983. I earned my first white ribbon in 1986 and my Gold Medal in 1992. I enjoy exploring different ways to use the traditional techniques and color.

David Susag
Lanesboro, MN
Spalted Maple Bowl with Carved Rim

I turned this spalted bowl on a traditional spring pole lathe. The wood is turned green, meaning that the wood has not had a chance to dry until after it is turned and it is allowed to warp as it dries. I use an axe to form the outside before I put the bowl on the lathe. I use hand-forged hook tools for the turning of the bowl. The spalted maple is finished with beeswax and a food safe linseed oil. I was inspired by the work of spring pole turner Roger Abrahamson, bowls in Vesterheim's collection, and bowls that I have seen in Norway at the folk museums.

I had my first spring pole class with Roger Abrahamson in 2014 at Vesterheim. In the winter of 2015-16, I built my own spring pole lathe. In 2016, I started to forge my own hook tools for turning. I use a food-safe finish on all of my bowls so that they can be used and enjoyed. I enjoy the rhythm and the sound of the spring pole lathe.

Jan Norsetter, Gold Medalist
Verona, WI
Os-style Double Recipe Box

This Os-style recipe box is painted in the best rosemaling tradition and is a utilitarian object designed to be both useful and beautiful. The design was sketched out in chalk and painted in oils. The box itself was made by Mike Lusk at Lusk Scandia Woodworks.

This Os-style recipe box takes some inspiration from Annanias Tveit but re-imagines the motifs he used. I like how lively and happy the Os style looks. The front of the box has images of the Torpo Stave Church and the Torpo Church in Torpo, Norway. I love that the Norwegians have aimed to preserve their heritage by insisting this stave church remain standing. To accommodate a growing congregation, a new church was built just north of the stave church. The repeated central motif is a flower that I think of as the sun. On the lid, sides, and back, the sun is full. On the front of the box the sun is rising. The rest of the motifs are supporting members of the design.