

ARTIST PROFILE

be steel, his art!

Local sculptor loves working in found metal.

By Pamela Dillon
Contributing Writer

Who: Metal sculptor Jim Moser.

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What he does: Moser creates abstract steel sculptures from found objects in a studio at his home in Kettering.

Why he prefers steel: "It's a cheap medium. If I was working in stainless or aluminum, I'd have to pay for everything, and I wouldn't be able to find interesting parts. Steel is everywhere."

What he uses and where he finds it: Old press gears, tables, file cabinets and scrap materials from an abandoned mechanic room at the *Dayton Daily News*; railroad spikes, railroad car springs and track bolts from the switching yards near Front Street; electrical supplies and surplus antique tools from Mutual Electric Co.; giant steam valve handles and flywheels from a demolished Dayton Power & Light Co. plant; galvanized barn roof pieces liberated by a tornado in Tennessee, just to name a few.

Description of works: His best-seller is *Perspective on a Crucifix*, a cross made from welded railroad spikes. Functional art includes *The Fire Bearers*, candle stands made from drill presses and railroad spikes; tall occasional tables made from fly-

wheels, steam valves and long steel rods; *Impasse*, a round mirror with two "hammerhead" people meeting along the top; funky wine racks made of scavenged pipes from Taylorsville Dam; and a CD trellis.

'Reaffirmation'



A few of his kinetic works: A "bobblehead" series made from various gears, springs and textured bases that either mount to a wall or sit on a table-top; valve handles that spin on various abstract works; a carrot grater with a moving carrot; mobiles and candleabras.

Arts background: On a whim, he took a sculpting class with a friend at Miami Valley Career Technology Center in Clayton in 1999.

He loved the medium and started collecting steel objects to create works. Since then, he shared a Front Street Studio with another sculptor from 2002 to '04. He had several open houses there and exhibited his creations at One Dayton Centre Gallery last October. He's made several Creative Excellence Awards for the *Dayton Daily News*, where he has worked for 14 years as an artist and Web designer.

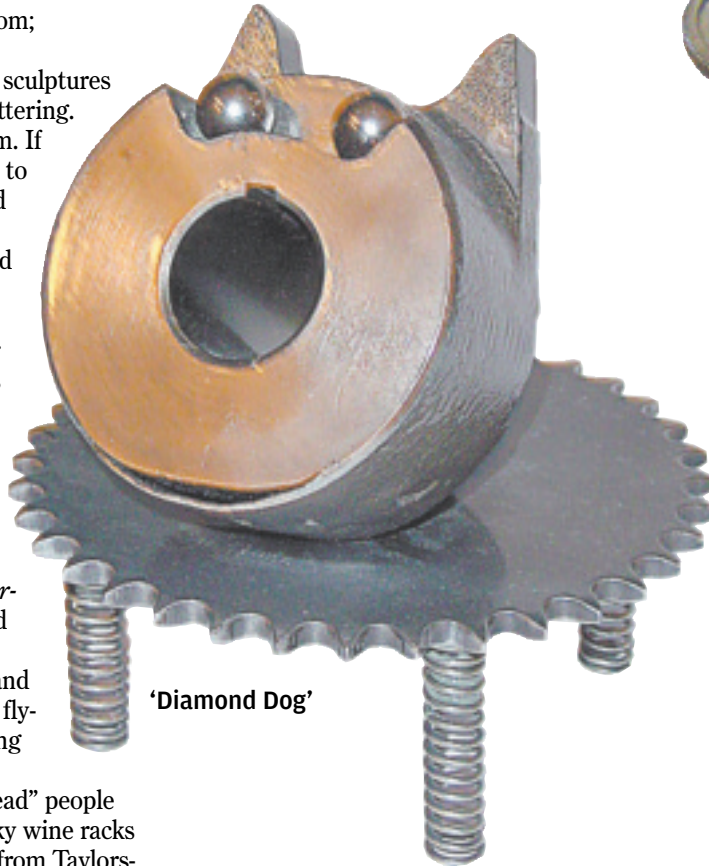
Currently working on: Making "Forty Under Forty" awards for winners of the *Dayton Business Journal's* annual recognition of young movers and shakers. It's an abstract steel work made with an undulating vertical stem and two zeros placed in strategic spots, separated by a slash. He has nine of them finished, with 31 to go. Moser figures that's going to take most of the winter.

Future plans: "It's a great hobby; I make a little bit of money at it now. If I play my cards right, someday I may be able to retire and do this full time."

Contact freelance arts writer Pamela Dillon at pamdillon@woh.rrr.com.



'Time Heals'



'Diamond Dog'



'Longworth Flywheel'

Jim Moser with some of the artwork he has created from metal parts. Contributed photo by Pamela Dillon

