


ORNAMENTAL & MISCELLANEOUS METAL FABRICATOR



MASTERS OF THE CRAFT

THE ASTONISHING WORLD OF
POSSIBILITIES WHERE ARTISTRY
AND METALCRAFT COMBINE

[PG. 30]

DAUNTING CURVES AHEAD: AMERICAN AIRLINES
STAIRCASE TAKES BENDING TO A NEW LEVEL [14]

MAYNARD STUDIOS

Pinecone Wall Sculpture

A Masterpiece Inspired by Nature

It all started with a walk in the woods. Karine Maynard was on a visit to a client's property (in a gated community near Bluffton, SC), where her company was installing gates. While she was there, Karine went on a walk with her client and her sisters through their woods.

"As we walked, we picked samples of different botanicals that caught our eye," Karine recalled. "The idea was that I was going to use these as inspiration to create our client an interior wall sculpture out of many botanicals."

Along the way, Karine picked up a pinecone from a Loblolly (or Southern White Pine) tree. It caught her attention, and she decided to take it back to the studio as a model. Karine had previously learned some blacksmithing techniques for making pinecones, and tried them all – but none looked like the one from their walk.

"I wasn't going for an exact replica of a Loblolly pine," Karine said, "but I wanted it to at least have the presence of one, and these techniques were not cutting it. It was important to me that what I presented to the client would be similar to what was found in their coastal marsh environment."

It took Karine a full week of research and development to finally come up with the 'how-to' plan that would yield the desired look. Luckily, none of the other botanicals for the sculpture gave her as much trouble, so she was able to make up lost time.

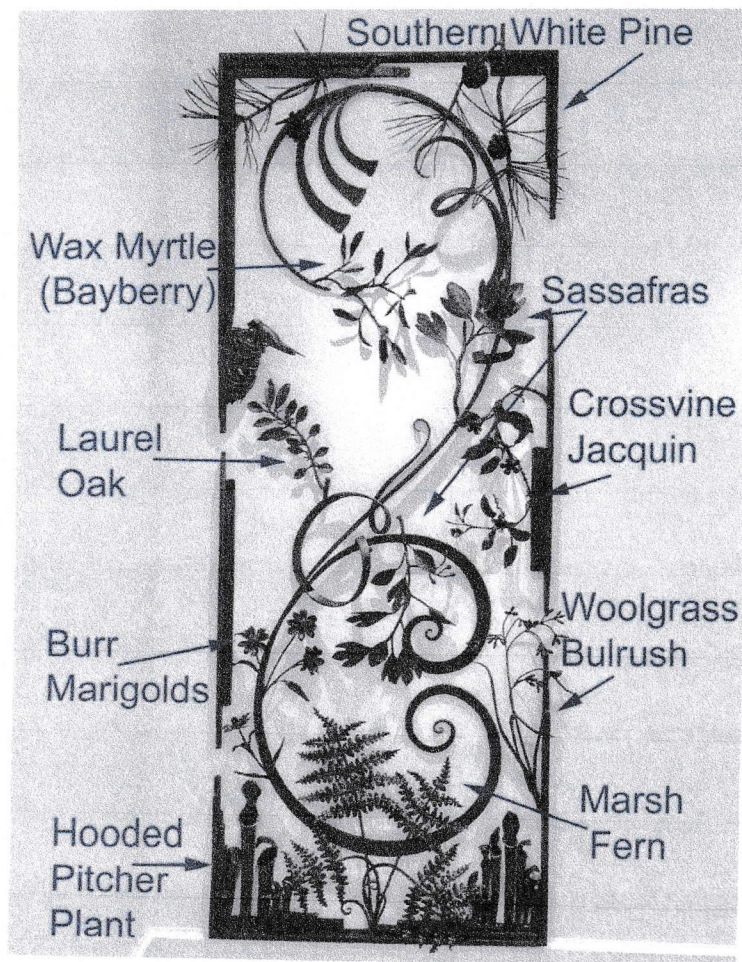
Karine forged the sculpture from solid stock and gave it a clear enamel finish, over forged and wire brushed steel.

"The pinecone and branch in the sculpture started out as a shop study," Karine explained. "After I was happy with my process, I drew shapes in chalk on our shop floor and from that, one of our fabricator employees made frames."

Karine and her husband, Matt, added the scrolls and ribbon-like embellishments, ultimately creating about a dozen of these 'wall hangings' from their shop studies.

The results were very well received: Karine and Matt have sold some of them, kept several for their own office, and Karine said she is currently working on a large commission for another client who loved the design:

"She saw the forged Sassafras leaf and branch studies in our front office and said, 'That's what I want!'"



ABOUT THE ERNEST WIEMANN TOP JOB COMPETITION

The Ernest Wiemann Top Job Contest is a peer-judged competition created to honor outstanding work. NOMMA members from around the world compete for awards in multiple categories, including forged and non-forged work ranging from gates and stairs to furniture and accessories. All entries are showcased during NOMMA's annual METALfab convention, where NOMMA members select each year's winners. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2021 Top Job Contest, with winners announced at METALfab 2021 in Nashville, TN. For more information, contact info@nomma.org.