

THE Arts IN PUTNAM COUNTY

Catching up with Craftsman & Artist Lenny Harrington *The Handyman's Handyman*

By ERIC GROSS'S

As a small child, Lenny Harrington's hands were busy making things. The Mahopac man recalled building intricate models from scratch, taking bicycles apart, and sketching an idea for his home, a vision he brought to fruition in 2001 atop a hill at the Carmel-Kent town line, overlooking Fahnestock State Park.

His sister, Christine Harrington-McShane, who serves as Harrington's business manager, remembered her younger brother growing up: "If he couldn't find a tool to create something, he would make one. I've never come across anyone as talented as my brother."

Harrington explained his contemporary artwork, which is made from powder-coated steel, is designed to "inspire a contemplative state of mind and being." He joins two and four-inch steel bars into squares, and guides them slowly into open cubes and joined geometric shapes; when you look at his work your gaze drifts through and around the work, not looking so much at the actual piece but the spaces that are framed and eventually reflected in the smooth mirrored lengths. "My goal is to make the creations flowing with a sense of movement. They are heavy and don't move but the idea resembles a car that is standing still yet appears to be traveling at a fast pace. There is action. It is alive," he said.

Evoking a bit of a modern Arts and Crafts movement feel, Harrington also makes collaborative designs with individual clients. The process begins with a "look at the canvas. My client and I pull the pieces together and create an idea before I go to work and build his masterpiece." Inside Harrington's workshop is one of those



bespoke pieces an 'eyebrow' window; it was commissioned for a private home. "It breaks up the roofline while allowing a lot of light into the residence," he said. In his workshop is another nod to the Arts and Crafts movement, a granite and wood buffet table complete with wine cooler and cutting board.

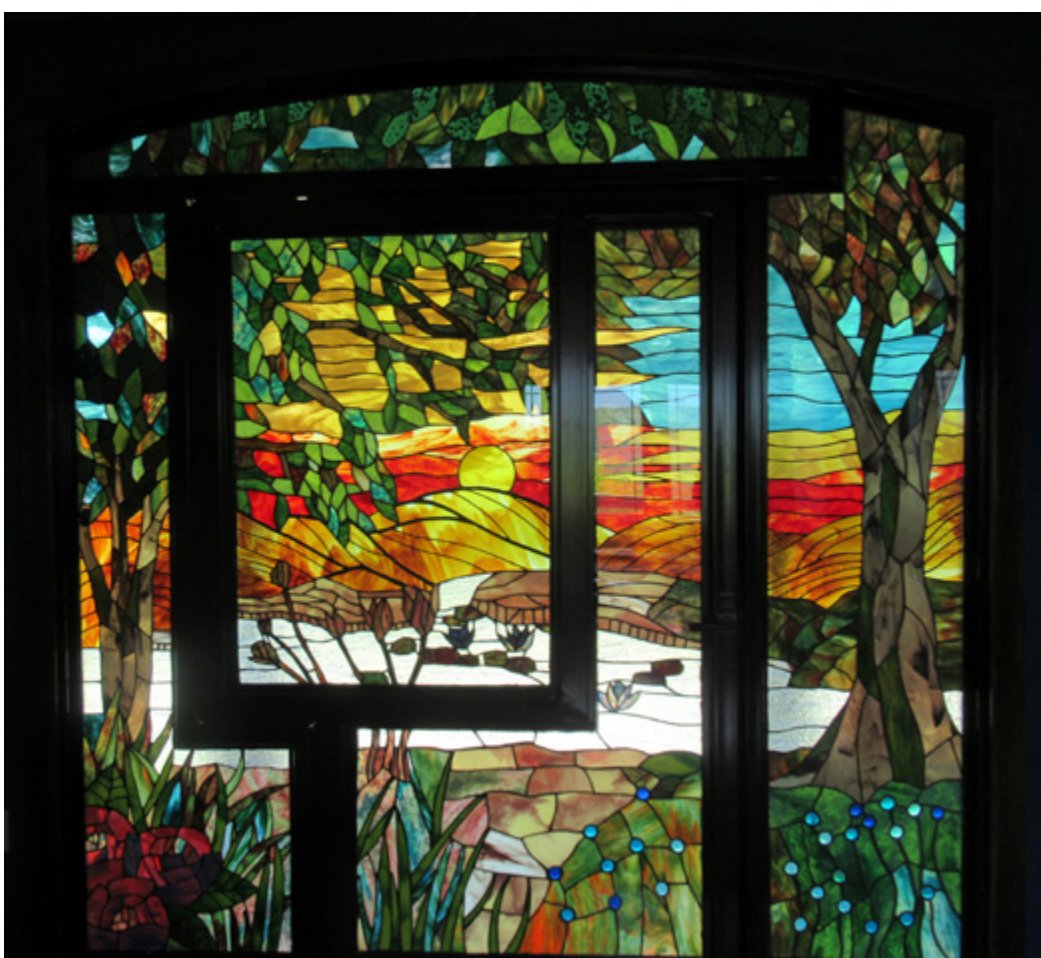
His finesse with found materials was evident in April during the Sybil Ludington celebration. He designed and built a sculpture of Star, the Revolutionary War heroine's horse, from used bicycle parts.

Harrington and his wife, Margaret, have two sons. "I am always thinking of creative ways to bring my family together. Last year created more opportunity for me to explore my talent and work with the family. I built a stained glass door, an amazing vegetable garden, a COVID-friendly outdoor-indoor hangout space, and a new bedroom window that looks out on Fahnestock. Whether inspired by nature, my family, other artists, or the Spirit of the Universe, the handyman's handyman is always creating something," he said.

Harrington can be reached by calling 347-554-0810 or his sister at 917-887-7368. Harrington's creations are also displayed on his website



Above, Lenny Harrington and his sister Christine Harrington-McShane admire one of the artist's original artistic cubes. Left, Inside the workshop Harrington uses a torch to create an 'eyebrow' window. Photos by Eric Gross.



Above, A magnificent stained glass door created by the artist greets guests to the Harrington home. Photos by Eric Gross.



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