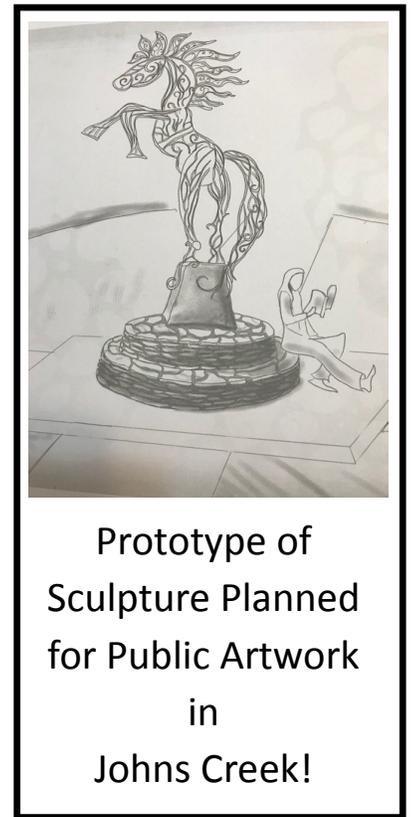




Civilized by Nature Eric Strauss, Sculptor



Eric was drawn to the world of fire and metal while in college and was inspired by an art professor. The teacher led him into the school foundry to help tidy up the run-down shop, and he fell in love with the furnaces, forceps, and molds he discovered there. His passions then found him in Tuscany, Italy, as a young man to study bronze casting and stonecutting under the tutoring of classical masters.

After his training, Eric found his direction as a sculptor. It was helpful that his relatives owned a scrap yard where Eric was able to find a plentiful supply to weld his new creations. This helped to change his artistic emphasis from the negative space-oriented methods of casting and cutting to welding, where a sculptor must focus on what pieces are available and how to construct them into something new.

The themes Eric depicts have ranged from botanical, to religious iconography, to celestial bodies, but the work he's best known for comes from a very personal part of his experiences. In his childhood, he had tended horses on his father's farm and found his time with them to be a very special, formative part of this life. He grew up on a farm in the area known today as Shakerag in the Johns Creek, McGinnis Ferry Road area. "They're just like friends to me," Eric says of his equine charges. I make my horses in very living, intelligent poses and expressions, because I want people to see not what they are, but WHO they are."

After dozens of exhibitions and seeing his work fill the collections of companies, schools, private collections and museums, Eric has hit his stride as an artist. Like his art, he lives with nature deep in the Chattahoochee National Forest in his studio in Ellijay, GA, where he runs a blueberry farm with his wife and children.