

TESTIMONIALS

“Although our three Peacock sculptures are quite small in scale, they seem to occupy a surprising amount of space, for despite their compact dimensions, despite their material density, despite their inanimate form, they are somehow “antic,” possessed by an almost biomorphic energy. They remind us of the planet itself: solid yet simultaneously fluid, cohesive yet suggestive of the infinite.”

Tom and Alexa Robbins, La Conner, WA

“Rubin’s work is a rich patois of pre-Columbian, contemporary and indigenous forms. His studio and foundry, a rough and tumble workshop and gallery, are full of energy and focus. His piece is at the heart of our collection. It speaks to enduring power and gashed, unhealing history howling at the moon. Rhythm and pattern animate a group hug of surviving spirits. Wow!”

Eric Franklin, Portland, OR

“By 1980, art had entered a period when the avant-garde no longer shocked, when the ‘-ism’ labels so cherished by critics ceased to be valid, and when daring new materials and techniques had become commonplace. This has made for a healthy atmosphere for artistic creativity. Yet, in the midst of this stands an artist whose life work is rooted in the tradition of a timeless material. For Rubin Peacock, the Bronze Age did not end with the second millennium; bronze is his material and he makes it speak for him. His sensitivity to the material and his sense of experience coalesce in an art that is at once both timeless and reflective of the influences on his life.

The influence of diverse cultures, the tradition of the material, and the artist’s clear understanding of the creative process in a contemporary idiom result in works that are powerful, mystical, visionary, even magical.”

Jackson L. Blanton, North Palm Beach, FL

“The seven or eight years that I have owned and enjoyed Rubin Peacock’s bronze sculpture ‘Untitled Totem’ in my garden have been the most inspiring that I have ever had. He created the sculpture from a small sketch, which I chose from his collection and he expanded it to about 6 feet tall. It became the perfect focal point in my garden... the surface textures and patina caught the light in interesting ways, which immediately transformed the space.”

Henrietta Near, Richmond, VA

“My fantasy is fulfilled! My art collection, as eclectic as it is, is complete. I am surrounded by beauty and have ‘Sphere with Motion’ as part of my daily existence. How fortunate can you be?”

Sonia Vlahcevic, Richmond, VA

“I first met Rubin Peacock at Peace Corps training on the campus of San Diego State University in 1966. We were headed to Jamaica to serve as teachers. . . .As time wore on, and our teaching duties became routine, Rubin’s need to create art began to assert itself. It was something we talked about frequently, and he began doing abstract pen and ink drawings. But his primary interest was clearly doing metal sculpture, a process that was not possible at the youth camp because there were no casting facilities. On several occasions I suggested he do some wood carving, but it was not a medium that interested him. When I asked him why, he replied: ‘It’s important to me that my artistic creations last forever. Paper tears, wood rots, glass breaks, iron rusts, but bronze lasts forever.’”

Bill Milisen, Gales Ferry, CT

“We live on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation, so we were immediately drawn to ‘Howling at the Moon,’ because of its native American theme. The piece reflects a spiritual longing and suggests a connection to the eternal. It is Rubin’s passion and creativity that draws us to his work.”

Brad and Kathleen Brown, King William, VA

“I, the Fabricator, and Rubin, the Sculptor contemplated the sagging corner of a very old wooden building one summer in the country. Its bones were broken. Over the course of a few hours we jacked and levered, placing bits and pieces of aged but sturdy wood into position. The task was less like the precision cuts and well-placed nails of a carpenter and more like molding the shed back into shape through sheer will power and inspiration. We left behind a secret sculpture, important as any, I think. While Rubin’s bronzes garner well-deserved attention, his lifelong sculpting of flotsam and jetsam into new and unique forms has been a joy to observe and that one morning, for me to participate in.

Rubin has left many secret sculptures in his wake including one constructed of a microwave oven, turntable motor, vacuum cleaner parts, audio player, velvet curtains and a Pac Man console, among other cast-off materials and, no, I won’t reveal. It is a secret.

I purchased a building from Rubin, 10-feet wide and 40-feet deep, next to a banana warehouse. He had rescued the gutted shell and I was honored to ‘finish it off’ a bit. The vision he brought to the site remained clear, a pioneer renovator of cast-off buildings. This was not the first and not the last of his ‘design/build’ projects. Who else would tow a condemned bungalow from an airport runway extension project half way across Sarasota, FL to complete a compound?

Some folk accomplish big things with bravado and ambition. Rare folk take time to observe, listen to the world around them enabling recognition of something to be made out of virtually nothing. Rubin is one of the latter and has done it all with good humor and a respectful hand.”

Thomas Erhardt, St. Croix, Virgin Islands

“Living with Rubin’s pieces so often reminds us that they not only represent creativity, but hard physical labor. They allow us to see Rubin through them as a dedicated artist whose strength and determination show in every piece he creates. They express in a resilient manner something that is so important for each of to recognize: art is an expression of work just as work is so often an expression of art.”

Susan and Warren Cook, King William, VA

“Rubin is a master of visual space for it is not what you see, but how you see his work, how they thrust themselves into the vision of your consciousness. Their geometric forms require you to react to them consciously, for each monolith, rectangle, square and triangle firmly attaches itself to Mother Earth.

We own three of Rubin’s sculptures. Although the emphasis of our collection is 19th and early 20th century, these three pieces live quite comfortably in our collection.

- 1) “Standing Nude”-When we first saw her, it was love at first sight. She was so tactile you just want to hold her and keep her warm.
- 2) “Wind Swept Man”- When we first saw him, we just knew it was a study for a monumental work to be placed on a mountain top and live with the winds.
- 3) “The Postman” – We first saw this work in the studio on Rubin’s work bench, unfinished. We merely said, ‘Finish it for us for it so alive with action, tension, texture within itself.’ It stands alone in its glory!
- 4) “The Helmet”- A circular work with an outer shell covering a mystical space. This work is the ultimate compliment to Rubin’s talent for it was stolen from the reception area of our art gallery, Post Impressions.

Bob and Margaret Mayo, Mathews, VA

“Rubin intrinsically knows how to coax every nuance of beauty from bronze. His shapes and textures, from organic to abstract are testaments to his virtuosity. His spectrum of vibrant patinas are stunning.”

Janet Cameron, Sarasota, FL

“Rubin’s work speaks for itself without interruption by committee or financial purpose. The result is a most pure expression of a man’s soul, which is clearly older than the man himself. I have several of his pieces reverently displayed in my home. His work brings with it a unique blend of a warm glow punctuated by strong statements.”

Ryland Fleet, New Kent, VA



“I had the good fortune of meeting Rubin in 1980 during which time he was creating his foundry, workshop and home in Sarasota, FL. He’s not only a unique personality, but a driven and passionate sculptor, who will always remain one of my favorite artists. I was given a small bronze ‘Catawba Man’ by him on my 30th birthday. This simply formed figure is delightful to view from every angle and it holds many memories of times spent with Rubin in Florida and Virginia. I will always treasure it, as I will treasure my friendship with Rubin.”

Suzy O’Connell Lamont, Sheffield, Tasmania, Australia

“Rubin Peacock has helped fuel our growing interest and love of dimensional art. We already have five of his pieces and look to grow our collection. We consider him to be a Richmond and Virginia art treasure.”

Art and Lloyd Backstrom, Richmond, VA

“A visit to Rubin Peacock’s gallery inspired us and gave us a deep appreciation for his sculpture. Rubin sculpted ‘Butterfly Chief’ for us in 2014. We are honored to have this incredible sculpture in our home and have enjoyed sharing its beauty with our family and friends. Rubin’s sculpture has enriched our lives and our appreciation of art.”

Tim and Terri Treinen

“I have enjoyed my unusual piece of Rubin’s vision for more than 20 years. It has enhanced three different outdoor decks in our family moves. Viewing ‘Blue Angles’ from various positions always provides changing enjoyment.”

Gene Francke, Richmond, VA

“In some generations there appears one unique individual in the world who is faithful to his unique imagination. Rubin Peacock has consistently through the years given us his fresh and dynamic bronzes, paintings, and drawings. It’s a great pleasure to know of one who gives us such aesthetic pleasure through his delightful and amazing craftsmanship.”

William Kendrick, Richmond, VA

“Over the years Rubin developed unique styles, some combined biomorphic forms with more structural or architectural elements. I found those to be particularly exciting and provocative. Rubin’s output of sculpture has been prolific, as he is one of the hardest working artists I have ever met.”

*Sharon J. Hill, Ph.D., Richmond, VA
VCU Dept. of Art History, emeriti faculty*

“We have three of Rubin’s pieces. The one we appreciate most is an outdoor sculpture ‘Lost Canyon,’ which we have owned for some 30 years. It is a stable and perfectly balanced piece, reminiscent of the mountains we love. The texture is perfect. It is placed in the front yard of our Richmond Fan District home where it generates conversations and is enjoyed by neighbors and passersby.

Heyn and Sandy Kjerulf, Richmond, VA

“The viewer will observe certain areas and surfaces that may appear supportive or relatively static. These areas combine harmoniously into other more active sections directing the ebb and flow of energy within the work. Streamlined surfaces are juxtaposed with areas that are bitten and torn. A characteristic element of Rubin’s works is forms pushing against each other. These forms are combined and balanced to produce an articulate and elegant statement.”

Annette Sand, Sarasota, FL

“We have enjoyed Rubin’s sculptures for a number of years now. Our first purchase from Rubin was a whimsical female figure, which begat our purchase of a flat relief. They are both sited on our primary viewing space situated in our main sitting area. As time passed we realized we had to have the ‘Wrapped Cube’ to complete the set and close the space. Now, we are in the process of defining a new area, which requires more visual stimulation, hence we are lusting after a larger work for an outdoor area. We enjoy the visual stimulation on a daily basis provided by these exquisite works of art.”

Brooke G. Asbury and Zulfia Tursunova, Sarasota, FL

“I have been privileged to watch his sculpture evolve over the years. He uses techniques that are centuries old and his work reflects a permanence that is almost antithetical to much of today’s sculpture... Visiting him in his Florida home, I picked up the *maquette* of ‘Inca Passage.’ That sense of physical contact, the seeing and feeling of it, made me know that I wanted this piece. I decided it was an appropriate way to memorialize my late husband Richard Bowles.... The pleasure I experience when I see Rubin’s work is intense. I love flowers and I love seeing the sculpture among the flowers, shrubs, and trees. To look at the work makes me think of my late husband and the love I had for him. More than that I am reminded of the love Rubin has for his work.”

Linda Sawyers, Lexington, KY

“Rubin has been a friend going on 50 years. I know him as a friend who makes art. He is a better cook than me. We have shared many a good meal at his house, commiserating about the world situation and how to fix it. We are each other’s ace-in-the-hole when it comes to needing manly help moving heavy objects or advise on everything from mechanics to romance. My life would be diminished without him.”

Sam Forrest, Richmond and Mathews, VA

“With disciplined energy Rubin pursues his daily schedule at whatever project he happens to be committed to at the moment whether it’s a sculpture, painting, or perhaps moving a vacant house or studio acquired free onto a lot he owns next door. His early training in Italy and France furthered his training as a sculptor to that of a world-class master and teacher. The unusual theme for his abstract bronzes comes from within the inspirational gift of his mother’s native American genealogy. It’s the wonderful genius, power and creativity of his art. I acquired a small bronze from Rubin’s 1996 production for my collection. This unusual, very abstract piece, often stirs conversation while commanding the large fireplace mantel of my northern Michigan lodge.”

Craig Brigham, Northport MI and Sarasota, FL

“Rubin Peacock is one of our community’s long-time mainstay blue chip artists, and his work is always spot on...he’s a sculptor’s sculptor. His career has been an unwavering of thinking art, studying art, making art, and nurturing a continual love affair with material and form. Every Rubin Peacock artwork has a vested pedigree of hard work, focused thought, and intentional portion of something that is too often casually dismissed from contemporary trends: beauty.”

John Bryan, former director, Richmond Culture Works, Richmond, VA

“We have collected Rubin’s sculptures for the last forty years and each day it gives me a feeling of substantial stability that one person could create such beautiful and intuitive works.”

Harvey McWilliams, Richmond, VA