

HERSCHEL KRANITZ

Herschel Kranitz is a native of Pennsylvania educated at Washington and Jefferson College and the University of Pittsburgh. He was an early Peace Corps Volunteer, joining in 1963, where he taught English as a second language for two years in Thailand. Upon the completion of his assignment he returned to the United States and began a career in business. For the next 35 years he was chained to a desk, for which he was handsomely compensated. He alleges that he performed various vital tasks at increasingly more senior levels until he reached the rarified levels of Corporate Officer for a number of companies; some of them remain in business, others are not and it is unclear whether Herschel's efforts had anything to do with either result. Along the way he married, fathered two remarkable children (who grudgingly continue to acknowledge their relationship), collected art, ran two galleries on the side, and pursued athletic endeavors in a wide variety of sports with a remarkable lack of competence. He demonstrated particular ineptitude....but enthusiasm... for both golf and fishing. However, he frequently confused the two activities and would call "fore" as he cast a line while fishing and "fish on" when he struck a golf ball. There is no evidence that he ever caught anything, other than the chills while fishing but he did manage to hit several people with golf balls, fell in numerous bodies of water trying to retrieve errant shots and generally bemused or irritated partners and onlookers.

As his business career began to wind down in 1998 he discovered that he possessed an aptitude and interest in mosaics. He started by teaching himself then studied in Ravenna, Italy. His work has been displayed and sold in galleries in New England, Georgia, Arizona and Alabama. While his formal training is in Roman classical mosaic he most enjoys working in the folk art genre...doing utilitarian pieces (belt buckles, pots, tables, mirrors, trays) as well as more traditional portraits and still life. While the inspiration for most of his work grows out of his own cockeyed view of the world he also enjoys working in collaboration with other folk artists translating and adapting their visions into glass mosaics.

He can be found every day....from early morning until dinner....toiling in his studio in Norcross, Georgia fighting off the ravages of age and the uncooperative muses while making works of mosaic art that he finds (and hopes you do as well) fun!!! He welcomes visitors....as long as they don't overstay their welcome (two to three weeks), cooks well enough so that you aren't likely to be poisoned if you accept a dinner invitation and teaches classes - sharing the last great passion of his life with unsuspecting students. He appreciates feedback (particularly positive), enjoys collaborating with other craftspeople and will accept your money if you insist on buying one of his creations or take on of his classes..