

# MANITOU GALLERIES

INTRODUCING NEWEST ARTIST

# JOHN MAISANO



# “HOPE”



13.5" x 7.5" x 9", Bronze Edition of 50

From the artist:

“Many of my pieces have deep personal meanings so I try to include those stories and incorporate them into the sculpture as I create them.

In many cultures the dragonfly symbolizes change and transformation. Navajo legend states if they see a dragonfly in the desert, water is nearby, symbolizing hope.

For me it definitely symbolizes hope. When our beautiful girl cat Cricket was attacked and near death, she had a slow recovery and eventually could sit outdoors. A small green dragonfly would visit every time. Like a sign from heaven giving her, and us, hope. Upon her death many years later, I have seen a dragonfly on her grave many times.

The bear holds the dragonfly, both trusting one another, and the designs begin to move up the arm of the bear and eventually emerge on the bears back in the complete form of the dragonfly. Embracing and becoming part of the dragonfly. The bear receives the message of hope and transformation.”

# “GRACE”



24" x 5.5" x 7.5", Bronze Edition of 35

Grace is a perfect name for the beautiful flowing lines of the giraffe. The left legs are put together almost as one, divided only by a fine line. The eye travels up the form via this tripod stance and moves the energy of the piece through the body, to the head, and out through the leaf she is nibbling.

## “REFLECTIVE JOURNEY”



2.5" x 3" x 6.5", Bronze Edition of 50

## “INFINITE JOURNEY”



5" x 4" x 13".5, Bronze Edition of 35

## “FAST FRIEND”



2" x 1.75" x 3.5", Bronze Edition of 150

Some of my first sculptures; I created these in honor of my Dad, nicknamed “Snail” for his slow and steady pace.

They all represent different journeys in our lives. I first used the Art Nouveau designs on these creatures because I felt they were overlooked and underappreciated, much like my Dad.

While their shape is simple, their designs show the playful and creative journey on which life leads them. We have all seen the crazy trails left by snails as they travel on their slow journey. The polished body fold along their side helps to convey a sense of movement – albeit slow!

# “SLOW JOURNEY”



Monumental 72" x 24" x 23", Bronze Edition of 15

# “SLOW JOURNEY”



14.5" x 4.5" x 13, Bronze Edition of 35

# “RAZOR’S EDGE”



8.5" x 8.5" x 14.5", Bronze Edition of 35

This piece is all about power. His stance is firm and he is ready to face any foe. The lightning lining his nape echoes his ability to strike. The spiral behind his belly represents the coiled energy inside waiting to be unleashed. The polished circle on his side mimics a mirror, which many cultures believe wards off evil spirits because they flee when shown their reflection. Finally, the polished tusks draw his enemy's attention to his greatest weapon.

# “POLAR OPPOSITES”



11" x 5" x 10", Bronze Edition of 35

I chose this name because of the tiny penguin, hiding behind the iceberg, who lives at the opposite pole from the bear. While some have interpreted this piece as a statement of global warming, it is not. It is a whimsical piece showing my first attempt to sculpt water, ice, and currents. The little penguin is simply in the wrong place at the wrong time!

# “Hilo”



Large 15" x 10.5" x 12", Bronze Edition of 35



Small 9" x 6.5" x 8", Bronze Edition of 60

Represents the islands of Hawaii. I spent time there in school and was mesmerized by the beauty and spirituality of the people. A river or waterfall pours down Hilo's chest in his hands, which are in the shape of a heart. The river represents the spirit as water is so spiritual. On his back there is a wave crashing the way they crash on the islands. Subtle streaks can sometimes be seen on the back looking much like the grooved mountain on the islands. The position of Hilo's body is very peaceful and zen-like. The designs are Polynesian inspired.



# “REVERSAL OF FORTUNE”



Large 12" x 7" x 11", Bronze Edition of 50



Small 4.25" x 4.25" x 3 Bronze

# “VICTORY”



Monumental 110" x 122" x 54", Bronze Edition of 24



Monumental (Back)

I was commissioned by the Leander Public Arts Commission and Leander Parks Department to create an eagle, in my style, to be the centerpiece of their beautiful Veterans Park. I was honored to be chosen to bring to life this magnificent creature as a tribute to the Veterans and all they have done for our great country.

Upon walking up to the site I immediately envisioned this pose: the eagle's wings forming a V for Victory, coming in to land among the flags of the five branches of the military; the laser focus in the eagle's eyes as it flies down, talons at the ready; the angles and lines of the body reminiscent of a jet fighter. Five ribbons hold up the mighty Victory Eagle, much as the five branches of the military uphold our country, and on his back you will see the stars, shiny and bold -- together these represent the Stars and Stripes. The Victory Eagle has two powerful muscles on its back, and the designs there represent the bombs bursting in air.

I love our country. I love the men and women, like my Dad and father-in-law, who have sacrificed so much to make this country great and keep her safe. It has truly been an honor to create this piece for this place.

# “VICTORY”



Large 37" x 42" x 19", Bronze Edition of 50



Small 14" x 12" x 5.25", Bronze Edition of 250

# “ANCIENT MESSENGER”



Large 40" x 18" x 2", Bronze Edition of 45



Small 24" x 10.5" x 1.5", Bronze Edition of 45

# “BEACH COMBER”



6" x 6" x 8", Bronze Edition of 35

# “URSA”



17.5" x 10.5" x 12.5", Bronze Edition of 45

My newest bear sculpture which will be a companion piece to Orion and have the Night Sky patina.

Ursa Major and Minor, the big and little dipper, is the first star constellation many of us learned about. Represented by the big and little bear, they remain forever together in the night sky looking down upon us. I have translated this star constellation into a momma bear holding her cub. On their backs are raised stars forming the constellations in polished bronze while the stars and night sky appear on their bodies. They are forever together in this sculpture. The most important part of this sculpture is the hand of the baby on the mothers back. Ripples or waves can be seen radiating from the babies hand onto the mothers back. This is the most important message that children will forever radiate through our lives, always with us and in our hearts.

# “CRUSADER”



16" x 25.5" x 5", Bronze Edition of 35

I have always been fascinated by a moment....a moment captured and frozen in time. When I saw this unusual pose it made me think about the moment just before facing something.

This is the pause, the breath you take before battle. He stretches his neck downward in preparation, leg back preparing for battle.

We have all had this moment, facing the trials and obstacles that life throws at us. Death of a loved one, a divorce, loss of a friendship. We take a deep breath, stretch, and get ready to push through... as our head rises we are ready for battle.

# “AURORA”



22" x 8" x 10", Bronze Edition of 35

The Inuits believe that the spirits of their ancestors travel through The Aurora Borealis. Aurora looks up smiling at the aurora passing over her head, knowing her ancestors are looking down on her. She holds a piece of the Aurora Borealis, Represented by a beautiful sphere of Labradorite. She holds her ancestors close....

This sculpture has the added benefit of being able to remove the sphere and hold it yourself.



# “BRAVEHEART”



Large 10" x 4.5" x 6", Bronze Edition of 40



Small 4.75" x 2.25" x 3", Bronze Edition of 50

Originally created for one of my best collectors, this lion was intended for an organization that helps to free children from slavery in other countries. On the chest you will see the heart of the lion, his hair blowing in the winds of the Serengeti, the polished sun on his side. This is the first sculpture in which I mixed realism with stylized modern shapes of the body.

# “CHURRO”



22" x 9.5" x 10", Bronze Edition of 35

# “BIG BEND”



11" x 8.5" x 24.5", Bronze Edition of 35

# “DASH”



1.5" x 4.5" x 4", Bronze Edition of 150

# “DAISY”



11" x 4" x 6.5", Bronze Edition of 50

# “EMERGENCE”



33" x 9" x 9", Bronze Edition of 35

# “DREAM PIG”



4" x 3" x 5", Bronze Edition of 50

# “OWL BE SEEING YOU”



16" x 8.25" x 4.25", Bronze Edition of 35



# “ORION”



Large 11" x 6" x 9", Bronze Edition of 60



Small 6.5" x 3" x 5", Bronze Edition of 450

One of my most heartfelt sculptures. Other than the big and little dipper, it's the next star constellation many of us learn to find in the night sky. He is looking up smiling and holding a star. The patina is a night sky with a galaxy on his back, the stars are falling on him. The star he's holding represents his loved ones who have passed on and he is holding them in his hand/heart.

During the making of Orion I lost a very dear friend who ended his life. I sat weeping on my studio floor while sculpting Orion.

The face of Orion is my beautiful white rescue cat (Amos aka Moose) who greets us every night with a smile and his eyes closed, paw extended....a bit of whimsy.

# “INKLING – RED OR TEAL”



5" x 7" x 23.5", Bronze Edition of 35

The octopus is such a complex and brilliant animal I wanted to represent the movement and complexity of the creature by using an ancient maze design along the side of the head. This is both representative of its incredible ability to think and solve problems as well as the sense of this creature being here on earth for such a long time. I truly believe if there is alien life among us this would be it.

# “NIGHT VISION”



10.5" x 7" x 17", Bronze Edition of 35

Originally created as a collector's kindred spirit, this has become one of my favorite pieces. His eyes seem able to look right into your soul with a focused glare. His side bears the Mayan symbol for panther, giving him an ancient feel. This is definitely a power piece capturing the inner soul of a warrior.

# “GARDEN PRINCE”



Large 47" x 35" x 35", Bronze Edition of 15



Small 2" x 2" x 3", Bronze Edition of 150

# “TORO”



Small 7.75" x 5.25" x 12", Bronze Edition of 35

# “NIGHT SONG”



Monumental 34" x 15" x 17", Bronze Edition of 15



Medium 14" x 5.5" x 9",  
Bronze Edition of 40



Small 8" x 3.5" x 4.5",  
Bronze Edition of 50

I contemplated sculpting a coyote for a long time, but I didn't want to portray the 'typical' howling pose. However, when I thought about the song he sings, I felt this was the best pose to represent that passion. The designs on his sides represent the winds circling the half moon, and behind his head is a very free and melodic design representing the song he is singing. On the back of his head is a polished full moon. When an animal raises its head and exposes its neck it is most vulnerable, so I wanted to create a protective shield of Celtic designs on his chest. If you look at his face you will see that he is singing from the very depths of his soul.

# “GRUFF”



15.75" x 10" x 4.25", Bronze Edition of 35

# “HEARTS ENTWINED”



7.5" x 8" x 5", Bronze Edition of 50



# “HEARTS UNFOLDING”



12.5" x 4.5" x 4.5", Bronze Edition of 50

# “HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER”



10.5" x 7" x 14.5", Bronze Edition of 35

# “HORSIN’ AROUND”



4" x 3" x 5", Bronze Edition of 50

# “HUMMINGBIRD WITH FLOWER”



19" x 7" x 4", Bronze Edition of 50

# “HUMMINGBIRD”



3.25" x 3.75" x 5", Bronze Edition of 50

# “JEWEL OF THE FOREST”



1.25" x 2.25" x 3.5", Bronze Edition of 150

# “LE CHAT”



6" x 3.5" x 5", Bronze Edition of 35

# “ASCENSION”



Large 91" x 40" x 17", Bronze Edition of 9



# “ASCENSION”

Some Native American lore says that the eagle is the only creature that can fly to the heavens, bridging heaven and Earth. There is no doubt that this is one of the most majestic creatures in nature. I have always been enamored of the flight of large birds of prey. As an adolescent I would hike in the woods in Guilford, Connecticut and get as high up on a ridge as possible to watch the hawks glide. This eagle has a sun on his wing, denoting his destination. The other designs represent the currents of the air on which he soars.



Small 18.5" x 9" x 5", Bronze Edition of 35

# “LITTLE BEND”



5.75" x 6" x 13.5", Bronze Edition of 35

# “MINE”



10" x 7" x 12.5", Bronze Edition of 40

# “ROXY”



Monumental 29" x 12" x 30", Bronze Edition of 25

# “MOXY”



Medium 12.5" x 11.5" x 12", Bronze Edition of 35



Small 5" x 4" x 5", Bronze Edition of 50

# “OUT ON A LIMB”



10.5" x 5" x 13.5", Bronze Edition of 50

# “PEACEFUL WARRIOR”



Monumental 22" x 33" x 40", Bronze Edition of 15

# “PEARL”



7.5" x 4" x 6.5", Bronze Edition of 50



# “ROMEO”



5" x 1" x 4.5", Bronze Edition of 50

# “THE GREAT WAVE”



3.5" x 4.5" x 17", Bronze Edition of 50

The Great Wave is a statement about life's ups and downs. Originally this was an homage to the famous Japanese print. We come into this life gradually and grow just as the wave does. We leave this life gradually as seen at the end of the wave. It represents the journey we take through this life seen in one sculpture.

At different times in your life you will find yourself in a particular part of the wave. Sometimes you are at the beginning anticipating the swell, other times you are in the belly looking up at the ceiling about to collapse on you. Through it all there are beautiful moments of creativity and joy that appear as designs and bright shiny edges throughout the wave.

Side note...this sculpture was never meant to be, slated to be destroyed as I could not finish it. It was saved by a collector and friend Jay Nolen.

# “HEART WAVE”



7.5" x 11" x 38.5", Bronze Edition of 30

The second in the wave series has two waves crashing together and forming a heart where they meet. The designs of the two waves mingle together the way we come together in this life and share our spirits, minds and bodies. Each wave starts at a narrow point and builds as it travels. We are all on a journey in this life... we meet people who we share the journey with on different levels of intimacy but each experience is unique and special.

## “SHINY THINGS I”



5" x 11" x 5.5", Bronze Edition of 50

Crows are funny creatures, with their habit of collecting objects, jerky movements and squawking. Named because of their fascination with shiny objects.....I wanted to create a pair of crows that are communicating with each other, carrying on a conversation from opposite ends of a table. One bows as it stares at the other crow...mouth open squawking at him.

## “SHINY THINGS II”



6" x 11" x 6", Bronze Edition of 50

# “SERENGETI WINDS”



11" x 4.25" x 9.75", Bronze Edition of 40

Being a Leo myself, I love how majestic lions are. Here I wanted to capture this majesty by perching the king of the jungle on a swirling base of grasses. The red orb in the center is meant to represent the heat of the Serengeti.

# “ROLLING THUNDER”



16" x 34" x 6.5", Bronze Edition of 40

# “SHELLBY”



2.5" x 3.75" x 3.5", Bronze Edition of 150

# “ST. FRANCIS”



23" x 12" x 13.5", Bronze Edition of 35



# “STARRY NIGHT”



5.5" x 13.5" x 9", Bronze Edition of 35

# “SCOUT”



3" x 4" x 3", Bronze Edition of 50

This is one of my earlier sculptures, of a squirrel I discovered in a nature book of creatures nearing extinction. I had never seen such a tiny squirrel and wanted to pay lovely homage to him. His belly has a completely freeform design reminiscent of Art Nouveau, acknowledging the wildness of this little creature.

# “THE ANCIENTS”



13.5" x 22" x 8", Bronze Edition of 50

The first in a series. These majestic creatures seem to have been with us for centuries, as shown by the rune-like designs on the wings. They are wise, collectors of both objects and knowledge.

# “STARS AT NIGHT”



1.5" x 3" x 5", Bronze Edition of 80

# “SUNNY”



1.5" x 2.75" x 1.5", Bronze Edition of 150

# “SUSHI ROLL”



10" x 5" x 7.5", Bronze Edition of 40

# “TX ROUND-UP”



Large 3" x 4" x 3", Bronze Edition of 50



Small 2.5" x 2" x 2.5", Bronze Edition of 150

# “WHO HOLDS THE KEY”



BLUE 1.5" x 2.5" x 2.5", Bronze



GREEN 1.5" x 2.5" x 2.5", Bronze



RED 1.5" x 2.5" x 2.5", Bronze



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