

FISH OUT OF WATER

Getting to know John Martin Streeby and his three-dimensional, abstract sculptures.

“As a horseshoer living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I was introduced to a group called the southwest artists blacksmith association. The president of the group was head metallurgist at Sandia National Lab. After seeing his work and the work of other artists in the area I began to explore the idea of becoming a metal artist. That was around 1984. But there was a long learning curve before I started thinking of myself as an artist.

I started by creating two-dimensional yard art and southwestern themed silhouettes. It was not until my wife Michelle and I moved here in 1998 that I began making three-dimensional and abstract sculptures. I now focus on large-scale residential and public art. These pieces start out as models or sometimes drawings and then are scaled up to produce the full sized piece. I work with Greg Barnhart who owns Nor Cal Metal Fab in Anderson to build the full size pieces. We also work together to design sculptural gates, signs and installations for homeowners and businesses. Building the models and scaling them up is a demanding physical process as well as a creatively satisfying one that ends in a strengthened connection between the viewer and the place whether public or private.”

Enjoy the Store, Redding carries John Martin Streeby's fish sculptures that can also be found on Highway 44.

