

THE COMPLEAT SCULPTOR

You Supply the Talent, We'll Supply the Rest

By ROMNEY LEADER

Tucked at the bottom of the table of contents on The Compleat Sculptor's colorful website lies the key to its continued success: a link entitled "proverbs." Clicking on this brings you to a page of quotes from a variety of sources on a variety of topics. Scrolling through, one can find illuminations on creativity, inspiration, art and love.

"The wise only possess ideas; the greater part of mankind are possessed by them," according to Samuel Taylor Coleridge. And a quote by Confucius: "It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness." A site visitor is left feeling comforted in their endeavors. The purpose of The Compleat Sculptor is apparent: if you want to create something, they are here to help you.

The Compleat Sculptor has been there for sculptors, prop-makers, conservators, archaeologists and anyone else with a need for eclectic media supplies since 1995. Their diverse offerings have provided supplies for *CSI*, *Law and Order*, the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Cold Mountain*, *Spiderman*, culinary schools and even ballistics training for the U.S. Government. Since its inception, owner Marc Fields has steadily increased his product offerings and customer base, making his store and catalog the largest supplier of its kind in the world.

Marc was inspired to start the business by his mother, a sculptor who frequently complained she had nowhere to purchase good-quality stone or browse a complete line of tools and supplies. There were stores to buy wood, stores to buy stone and stores to buy ceramics, but no store set out to offer a full range of media supplies under one roof. "Because I wanted to make my mother happy, I created this place – The Compleat Sculptor," he says.

Having grown up with artists, Marc

is sensitive to both the creative process and the frustration involved in finding the proper supplies for each project. The de-



Marc Fields, The Compleat Sculptor

velopment of a project from idea to physical reality is a tenuous and demanding procedure and the aim of The Compleat Sculptor is to make that process as easy as possible. Marc's goal is for sculptors to be able to use his store and website (www.sculpt.com) to track down a myriad of supplies they would previously have had to search several stores to find. He firmly stands behind his company's motto: "You supply the talent...we'll supply the rest."

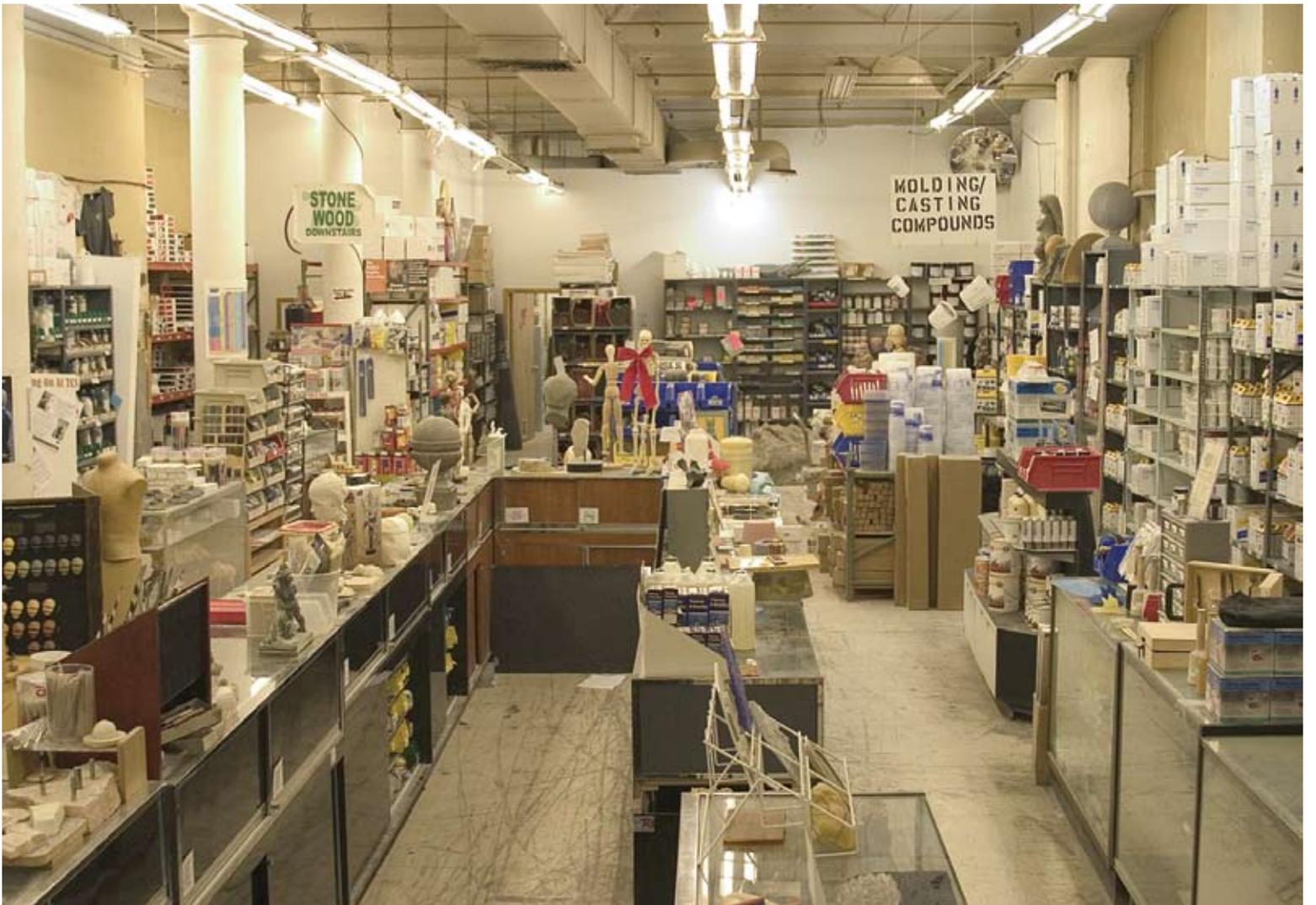
In addition to offering the highest quality tools and sculpture media (stone, clay, wax and more), The Compleat Sculptor also offers a full line of support services for artists. Stone sculptors can get their work finished and polished. Clay sculptors have access to a wide variety of mounting possibili-

ties, and bronze sculptors are put in touch with foundry services through affiliated foundries. Venturing down to the store's basement, one will find untold numbers of sculptures in various states of completion. Marc's assistant animatedly pulls back the shrouds of various pieces to describe what each finished product will yield. At The Compleat Sculptor, each piece is cared for by a staff of loving professionals who are just as excited about the creative process as the sculptor himself.

Once your sculpture is done, you can also look to The Compleat Sculptor for your finishing touches. They will mount anything to your specifications, custom-build you a pedestal or base, photograph your piece if desired and ship it worldwide. When the New York Metropolitan Opera called requesting information on how to create a full-scale reproduction of an "SUV-sized" boulder in Central Park, Marc and his team were consulted and his advice resulted in a flawless reproduction for the Opera. No project is too big or too small.

If you have any questions about any of the products or services offered, rest assured that the customer service department is staffed by people with actual sculpting experience. "And, because my mother insists," Marc says, "all of our supplies and services are tested and approved by our Sculptor Advisory Board." The Compleat Sculptor is clearly committed to being your resource at all points during your creative endeavors.

In addition to its full range of products and services, The Compleat Sculptor also supports sculptors and artists through its comprehensive series of classes, workshops and symposia offered at its New York City store. Monthly stone carving, wood carving and clay sculpting classes are offered on an ongoing basis. Upcoming specialty classes include cold patinas and metal coatings, Aqua-Resin, anatomical portrait in clay, plaster waste molds and an introduction to Winterstone. Acclaimed artist Wendy Froud, puppet designer for

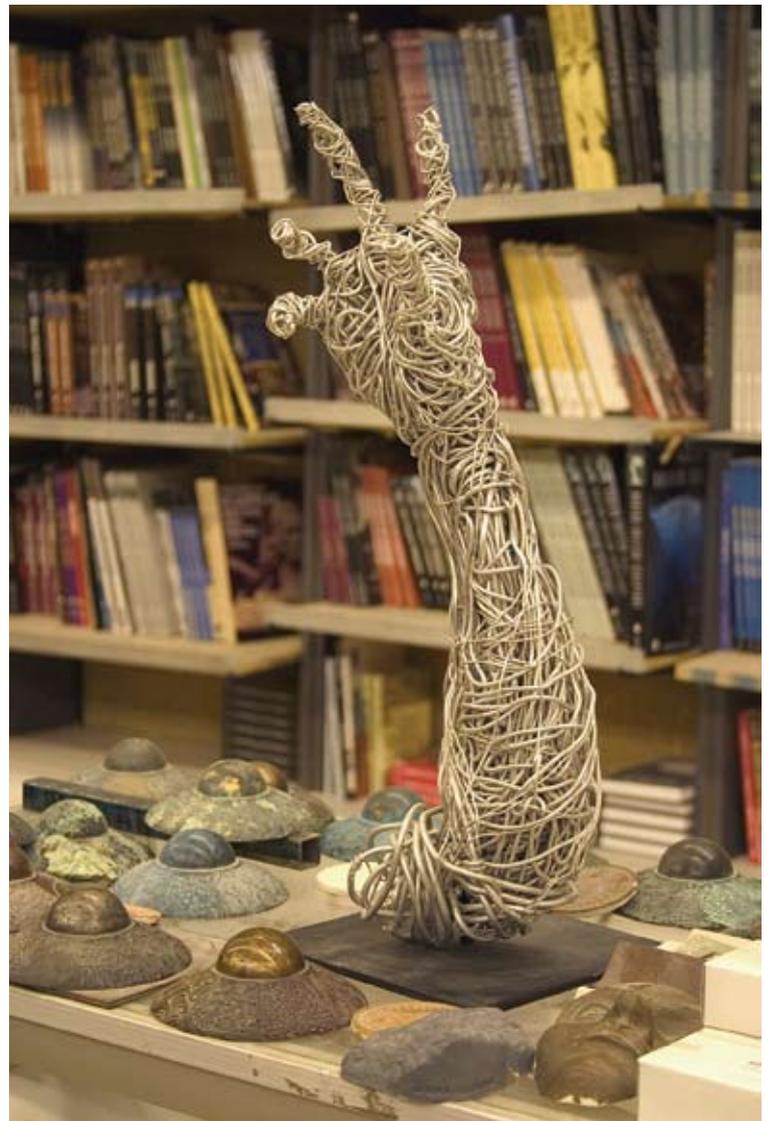


the Henson Company and conceptual designer of Yoda, will also be on hand to guest lecture a class on doll-making in April. Classes are suitable for artists of all skill levels and backgrounds.

The Compleat Sculptor's website is as important as its physical store and catalog because it offers immediate access to those outside of New York City. The website is well-maintained, current and full of information on all of the services offered. In addition to full descriptions of each class, the site offers school recommendations for those seeking serious sculpting classes. You can find out what trade shows The Compleat Sculptor will be attending, conversion and measurement tools, FAQ's on mold-making and casting techniques and more

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, site visitors can access the complete range of products sold through the store and print catalog. The online catalog is up-to-date and organized in a general alphabetic index that makes it easy to find what you are looking for. All major credit cards are accepted and the store is well-equipped for handling orders worldwide. If you cannot find what you are looking for, Marc urges you to call the toll-free number (800-9-SCULPT) and The Compleat Sculptor will try to track it down.

Indeed, Marc Fields is committed to making The Compleat Sculptor your complete sculpting resource. Though the company has a global reach, it still feels like the family operation it started as. Marc is quick to cite his mother as the reason for his success.



PHOTOS © ROBIN BLAIR RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Employees and customer service representatives are easy to reach and enthusiastic in their desire to assist people with their projects. If you wish to reach Marc himself, you can call the store and be transferred to him with ease.

For whatever your artistic need, The Compleat Sculptor has established itself as the place to turn to. Creativity and the flow of ideas are treasured here and Marc and his employees want you to feel that you will be respected, inspired and taken care of. As a quote by Plato reads in the proverbs section: "Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slow." At The Compleat Sculptor, you supply the talent and they'll supply the rest.