

Biography – Alison Finn

The progression of my work has been a continuous blending of my educational experiences with my constant drive to be creative. I received my BFA in painting and drawing from West Virginia University in 1988 and went on to graduate school at James Madison University receiving my MFA in sculpture in 1992. I then taught sculpture and design at the college level at both James Madison and the College of William and Mary. In 1989 I began blacksmithing and have since worked and studied with the best blacksmiths in the country learning traditional forging techniques and the importance of preserving the rich history of this art form. Before opening Freedom Metals, I spent four years at a large architectural metals company in Basalt, CO. as their head blacksmith learning much about commercial blacksmithing and its architectural applications. Now, as I have my own company whether I am drawing, designing, forging, or creating a faux finish, I feel that my education in fine art along with the experience I have gained in blacksmithing over the last fifteen years has enabled me to be knowledgeable and versatile in the way that I think about and approach my work.

Having a commitment to continuing education in blacksmithing I periodically do demonstrations and I teach a beginner-intermediate blacksmithing course each summer sponsored through Rocky Mountain Smiths.

The work we produce stresses the rich tradition and history of forged metalwork by utilizing centuries old techniques. By taking a raw piece of material and heating it in a forge, we form it by hand through processes such as hammering, chiseling, stamping and filing, into a finished product. Whether we are designing our projects in their entirety or collaborating with architects or interior designers, it is an essential goal to make our work by hand in keeping with this historic art form. The type of work we produce includes railings, lighting, hardware, fireplace doors and screens, furniture as well as any other special requests. Because our work is totally custom, the style and design of each project is tailored specifically for each client to ensure that we are providing them with ironwork that is personal and will be enjoyed for many years.