

Randall's Urban Sculptures Collection

Sept, 2010 newsletter

I haven't generated a newsletter in some time, as there hasn't been a lot of news! I have been busy filling quite a few orders this summer, and replacing the kitchen floor. I recently ordered a half-ton of clay and have been busy creating new models, the first is a Collegiate Gothic panel depicting the 1898 Board of Education, City of New York seal inspired by a panel on the demolished 1906 Public School Nr 27.



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Model Nr 27

Approx 27" X 24," this is finished but not in production yet, inquiries are invited.

The other model I am working on now in fact was inspired by one of seven terra cotta lioness roundels on the United States Steel office building in St Louis, Mo.



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Model Nr 311



(courtesy urbanstl.com)

The lioness roundel will be the same size as my wolf-head, about 20" diameter. Because it makes perfect sense, I may make another of these with a lion, facing right. The lioness is still in a work-in-progress mode.

As we all are aware, the US economy is slow, in an effort to avoid unnecessary expenses investing in molds of items that may sell, or may sell slowly, I decided to continue creating new models, but leave making molds of them until there is an order in hand that covers the costs.

A large mold as these will require, runs around \$300 in materials alone, and more than half a day's time to make, the molds also have a limited shelf life whether they are used or not, so new models need a minimum order of two casts before I will invest in making expensive molds for them- either two interested clients on a waiting list, or one who wishes to purchase two casts would see a mold made for that particular model.

That will allow me to focus my limited time, and invest in resources on the items that I know sell, or are in demand.

I had planned to already have a large kiln and to begin offering a high quality hand-made version of many of my pieces in fired terra cotta, but I don't feel the general economy at this time will really support the fairly pricey line I envisioned. This will happen at a later date however.

These are planned to be made much like the 1890's original architectural pieces, in clay pressed by hand into plaster molds, refined, detailed and finished by hand, and fired in the kiln. Due to the time and nature of that kind of work, it should be obvious the price will be considerably higher than the concrete casts, but terra cotta offers some excellent glaze and color potentials, and is extremely durable.

I would like that line to eventually replace concrete for exterior casts, but that is just a thought.

That is all for this newsletter, feel free to stop by UrbanSculptures.com and read my blog frequently for all the latest news.

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Randall