

The work of wood artisan, Robert Kernohan of Randalstown Co Antrim, appears in *Bespoke*, a colourfully illustrated collection of 101 International artisans written by Ashley Rooney (Schiffer 2012 ).

Custom designed furniture has been around many decades. Today, more and more individuals are discovering the joys of custom made furniture. In a time when mass production and disposable products are the norm, a younger audience concerned with the environment seems to be gravitating toward durable items that are made with sustainable materials.

As Thomas Throop states in the Foreword, “twenty-first century furniture makers or artisans combine both art and craft. They are skilled in the techniques of their trade yet have the creativity to design handcrafted furniture that offers great beauty. These artisans from throughout the United States and the world

- Produce distinctive furniture that reflects the work of the fine craftsman of the past and the ideas of the future
- Seek to perfect materials, forms, and finishes to meet the individual needs of their clients
- Love working with their hands.”

Bespoke or one-of-a-kind furniture adds texture and richness to the assortment of furniture in a room. As Gary Inman says in his Introduction, “studio or bespoke furniture is the marriage of creativity and practicality resulting in a beautiful, purposeful, and above all unique art object.”

Within the pages of this book you will revel in the work of 101 artisans from the United States and abroad.