



Robert Kernohan

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I started making furniture nine years ago to relieve the stress associated with my profession as a surgeon. I attended a few specialist courses, but I am essentially self-taught. I enjoy working with my hands to make objects and previously built racing cars. Having always been practical, I have never been excited by intellectual pursuits. I believe that effort expended must result in tangible objects that can be appreciated by all.

I realized that if I continued working I would never reach my potential as a woodworker, so I retired early in order to devote more time to my craft. It is difficult to become known when starting out. I have been lucky in having a small group of loyal customers who appreciate fine furniture and have commissioned several pieces.

I find the variety of wood species fascinating, each different and beautiful in its own way. Each board is different from the next and can only have one ideal use, requiring care and understanding to get the best out of it. The process of exploring what the customer wants, the functionality of the piece, defining the joinery and finally the making, turning a rough board into something which is beautiful to look at and sensuous to touch excites me. Of course, each new piece is a challenge, which is often a bit scary to start with. When the commission is complete and my customer is happy, however, there can be no other endeavor more worthwhile. I believe that wood is such a precious and diminishing resource that it is our duty to make beautiful enduring things from it so that the tree may live again as furniture.

There is something magical in making. When people look at my work, it requires no description, no explanation, it stands there. It speaks for itself.



"Bar Stool." Black walnut, ebony, oil, and wax. 22" x 21" x 41". 2010.



"Rocking Chair." Ash, walnut, ebony, and osmo oil. 28" x 42" x 43". 2011.



"Conjoined Stool." Black walnut, ebony, oil, and wax. 62" x 21" x 40". 2009.



"Rocking Chair." curly maple, walnut, ebony, and osmo oil. 26" x 41" x 40".

