

# BRENDAN GAFFNEY

CRAFTSPERSON, WRITER AND TEACHER WORKING IN WOOD  
WITH A PASSION TO SHARE THE WORK OF MY HANDS AND OTHERS.

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JANUARY, 2021

3 NORTH WARREN ST., ATHENS, NY, 12015

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**I AM A CRAFTSPERSON.** I make furniture, baskets, tools and household goods, with an emphasis on handwork and original designs. I learned the craft through my father, as well as through schooling and mentorship.

**I AM A WRITER.** I write on a daily basis for blogs, magazines and books. I recently wrote and designed my first full-length book, a biography of 20th century cabinetmaker James Krenov published by Lost Art Press in 2019. I also work as a designer, making everything from drawn diagrams to digital maps.

**I AM A TEACHER.** I've taught across the country in universities, craft schools and small workshops. At the core of my pedagogy is a desire to help others find a clarifying focus and fulfillment in their own work.

## EXPERIENCE:

### FURNITUREMAKER

Since 2012, I've worked with both machine and hand-powered woodworking tools to make cabinetry, chairs, tools and household items. This was both under my own business, "Burnheart Ltd. Co.," and for other woodworkers as an employee.

### WRITER

I worked at *Popular Woodworking Magazine* as Managing Editor in 2017-2018, and for Lost Art Press as a writer, designer and blogger from 2017-2021. I have also had my work and writing published in *Mortise & Tenon Magazine* and *Fine Woodworking*. I also maintain a blog through Instagram, as @burnheartmade, which has garnered an audience of 33,800 followers.

### TEACHER

Since finishing my undergraduate studies, I've worked as a teacher to share my passion with students. As a woodworker, I've taught at the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, the Marc Adams School of Woodworking and at Lost Art Press.

## EDUCATION:

### B.A., SOUND (SELF-DETERMINED MAJOR), SKIDMORE COLLEGE, 2012

Periclean Award Winner, the highest honor given to senior theses at Skidmore College. Dean's Highest Honors earned in six semesters.

### M.A., MUSIC, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, 2014

Thesis titled "Building on Flat Land: Dimension in Musical Interaction," an excerpt of which was published and presented in Stockholm, Sweden at the Sound and Music Computing conference. 3.92 GPA.

### CERTIFICATION, FINE WOODWORKING, COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS FINE WOODWORKING PROGRAM, 2015

Studied at the world-renowned school of fine woodworking founded by James Krenov. Final project, "A Cabinetmaker's Zither," won first place at the "Fresh Wood" competition at the AWFS conference in Las Vegas, NV in 2015.

## POST-GRADUATION TIMELINE:

**AUGUST 2015:** Graduated from the College of the Redwoods and moved to New York City, where I worked at Tools For Working Wood, a retailer of fine woodworking tools and books.

**JANUARY 2016:** Moved to Maine to be closer to my partner, Josselyn, and started my small business as a toolmaker and furnituremaker.

**JUNE 2017:** Moved to Covington, Ky., to work at *Popular Woodworking Magazine* as managing editor.

**JANUARY 2018:** After moving into the position of interim editor, I left *Popular Woodworking* to pursue work as a writer and teacher at Lost Art Press.

**AUGUST 2020:** After two and a half years in residence at Lost Art Press, my wife and I moved to Athens, N.Y. to be closer to friends and family and to my wife's Nurse Practitioner program in Troy, N.Y.

**CONTACT:** (413) 559-0814 (CALL OR TEXT) BRENDAN@BURN-HEART.COM



**“NO-GLASS SHOWCASE”**  
Gonçalo alves, maple. May 2019



**“UNDAUNTED WRITING CHAIR”**  
Mahogany, white oak. December 2019



**“FATMAN ROCKER”**  
Black oak, White Oak. January 2019



**“GREENWOOD DINING SET”**  
Rived white oak. February 2020



**“OAK DRESSING CHEST”**  
Curly white oak. February 2019



**BASKETS AND BOXES**

Pounded ash splint baskets, some dyed with natural walnut husk dye. Rived bentwood boxes in white oak and hickory bark. Small dovetailed boxes in assorted hardwoods.  
April 2018 - December 2020

**FURTHER WORK**

A more complete portfolio of my work can be found at my website, [www.burn-heart.com](http://www.burn-heart.com) or on my Instagram blog page, [www.instagram.com/burnheartmade](https://www.instagram.com/burnheartmade)