LaO Creativity

The Covid period for the last two years did inhibit my normal activities somewhat but also provided an incentive to explore other directions for my work in sculpture. My normal use of the main wood shop was lessened causing me to reconfigure my Country Home garage to create a somewhat crowded workspace that limited the scale of my work, but did allow me to investigate other ways to design and produce pieces that would be assembled elsewhere. (image 1)

The first piece of art started in my garage was a tribute to the incredible presentation by the Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman. I was so taken by the beauty and appropriateness of her Presentation at President Biden’s Inauguration that I assembled a number of left-over pieces of wood from other sculptures; it remains unfinished - like many other of my ideas that may sit around for months or even years - until another jolt of inspiration helps me complete it. (image Amanda)

The most exciting opportunity for me during this period came from a late summer 2021 phone call from an old neighbor friend of mine from Edgewood; she suggested that I call an acquaintance that I had not seen in years because she was interested in a sculpture. The owner of the famed Hyeholde Restaurant, who had exhibited some of my work many years ago, wanted a wood sculpture for her contemporary home on Grandview Avenue on Mount Washington. A phone call led to the execution of conceptual sketches (image 2a), a masked meeting with the client on August 20, 2021, more conceptual sketches construction of a scale model (image 4) and presented and accepted on Sep 17. I began a search for the best wood for the outdoor location and set an enthusiastic schedule to complete it by the end of 2021. I test-assembled the sculpture, constructed of poplar and walnut, in my garage on Dec 20, and thought I really blew it because the garage door and I had a challenge to overcome with the constricted space. Titled ***“Spirit of Nature”*** it was delivered on Dec 21 and installed on Jan 6, 2022. (image 5). On Friday, Jan 7, I received a message from my client: “Spirit wears the mantle of snow beautifully”. (image 6)