

BUSINESS PROFILE

CALIFORNIA FLOWFORM ARTISANS

PATRICK GARRETSON

A new wave of flowform artistry has emerged in America. From the Green Valley watershed in West Sonoma County, California Flowform Artisans LLC has opened its doors and is producing original John Wilkes and associated Flowforms™. We are licensed as a commercial flowform manufacturer, working with flowform models developed by the early pioneers of flowform technology.

The inherent mission of California Flowform Artisans (CFA) is to heal the economic, social, and environmental realms—through being an economic force, creating water sculptures that have major benefits for both society and ecology. From its conception, the flowform has lent itself to educational, ecological, and economic applications. Just as biodynamic agriculture is more than just a means of providing food, the flowform transcends the outer appearance as a fountain and demonstrates fundamental aspects of the nature of water and the life that proceeds from it.

Our main production studio is located on a 300-acre intentional community in the Green Valley watershed. Green Valley Creek is one of the few creeks still bearing the endangered Coho salmon in the larger Russian River watershed. This community—appropriately named Green Valley Village—is soon to be home to a Sustainability Learning Center (a 501(c)3 organization), which has branched off from New College of California, but it will also be working with Gaia University.

The building in which we are producing was once one of the main saw mills that clear-cut the beautiful Redwood Empire of Sonoma County after the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco—so in terms of healing, we'll also be working on a karmic level.

Currently we are casting eight different models of flowforms, seven of which are original designs by John Wilkes. The medium in which we are working is the traditional cast stone, which is the artistic version of concrete. We are sourcing our materials from the most sustainable sources possible, using fish-friendly aggregates and recycled cementitious materials to cut down our use of virgin cement. Other materials from ceramic to glass may also be appearing in our product line.

CFA's founder, Patrick Garretson, has been a long-time permaculture educator and biodynamic practitioner and is now completing a training in Waldorf education. Patrick completed his B.A. degree at New College of California with a concentration in Biodynamics under the guidance of Chas Moore, who studied under Andrew Lorand. From there his training deepened as he began delving further into the mysteries of water with Theodore Schwenk's work, as well as Victor Schauberg. In 2005 Patrick began working with Restorative Technologies as a flowform specialist and assisting with importation from around the world. Out of this relationship, CFA was born.

It is challenging to start up a new business with very little from which to draw for previous examples. In relation to the rest of the industrial world, America has a scarce representation of

flowform production. Currently we have reached a steady state of production capacity, though more upgrades are anticipated. We are still seeking financial aid from any venture capitalists who wish to see this technology thrive in America.

We are excited about the opportunities ahead of us. During this coming winter, we will be continuing to establish the production studio and prepare for the coming years of supporting the work of enlivening the spirit of water and restoring balance to the planet. With a strong emphasis in education and learning, CFA is establishing special discount pricing for schools and educational centers. Contact us for more details.

To find out more, visit the company's website at www.californiaflowforms.org, or call the office at (707) 829-5732.

