

BIOGRAPHY, KEVIN CARON

Born in Connecticut on February 2, 1960, Caron moved to Arizona with his family in 1973. Six years in the U.S. Navy provided fundamental training in machine shops and aircraft maintenance yards in ports of call including Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean and Misawa, Japan. After his honorable discharge in 1983, Caron ran a foreign car repair shop. Between jobs, he built his own vehicle, using parts from various sources. Much to his customers' satisfaction, such ingenuity was a hallmark of Caron's endeavors. This spectrum of constructive creativity has led him to familiarity with a broad variety of tools and resources.

Recently that journey, and the intersection between tools and his work, led to his pioneering work with 3D printing. He not only designs his work, he prints it himself on a highly unusual 8-foot-tall 3D printer.

It is no surprise, then, that his art career grew from a practical need. Eager to build a privacy screen to shield a work area from house view, Caron combed steelyards, catalogs, scrap piles and roadsides to find appropriate components. He finally found the perfect metal, virtually in his own backyard. When the screen — which eventually became the piece *Floating Undulations* — was complete, Caron began visualizing a fountain out of the same metal. He saw it in his mind, and it had a name: *Stretch*. Other fountains, variations using the same intriguing found material, followed. Friends, neighbors and relatives began seeing Kevin's work and telling others, and his career began.

Caron's fundamental foundation, fueled by an ingenious imagination, often makes obvious to him what others don't yet see. Working with an innate grasp of space, proportion and physics, he is conscious of not only the visual impact of his pieces, but often, too, their sounds and textures. Several pieces at Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc., which serves people with physical disabilities, have become favorites of staff, students and parents alike for their sensory gifts. Caron listens carefully while observing the materials, patrons and sites, honoring their essence in his creations.

Caron became a full-time artist in 2006. With more than 45 private and public commissions, his work can be found from coast to coast and online at www.kevincaron.com. In 2014, his sculpture *Giant Street Urchin* was recently installed at the \$131 million Harbourside Place development in Jupiter, Florida. In 2015, his sculpture *Wherever You Go, There You Are* was installed at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. His sculpture *Hands On* for the city of Avondale, Arizona won the 2009 Best of the West Award for Arts & Culture from Westmarc, a coalition of business, education and government leaders. Some of Caron's other public sculptures are in Tucson, Arizona; Chandler, Arizona; Avondale, Arizona; and Temple, Texas. Caron's sculptures have been exhibited at the Phoenix Art Museum, Shemer Art Center and Pima Community College East Campus and also can be seen at Pearson & Company in Scottsdale, Arizona; Van Gogh's Ear Gallery in Prescott, Arizona; and Vision Gallery in Chandler, Arizona. He has been selected by Art Trends magazine as Sculptor of the Year 2012 - 2014.

Caron's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/kevincaron features more than 400 videos, which have been viewed more than 10.3 million times. (2016-08)