

Bernie Ross

Qualifications Bernie Ross has a wide range of skills and works with a variety of media. He is a sculptor, milliner and clothing designer who works with wood, metal, leather, paper, cloth, latex, and many other materials.

His fascination is with the ways of life in early and pre-industrialized civilization. His knowledge of traditional crafts and everyday experiences infuses his sculpture with a sense of history and personality. Commissioned pieces reflecting this style include a bridal hat, veil and train, with ostrich feathers for a Renaissance wedding and ancient weaponry and accessories used in a variety of operas and Shakespeare theater performed in the San Francisco Bay Area. A full-head mask of the Nutcracker and the Mouse King has been fashioned for Western Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Other costumes include a latex and leather heavy-metal costume for the Exotic Erotic Ball and panda mascot suits for the Monterey Mattress Company.

He has a unique ability to work with the client in a collaborative fashion to bring the client's vision to fruition. Whether working with a dancer on a full head mask for visibility and safety (Mouse King) or making a table for a long distance runner's medals and ribbons, modeled after her Corgi (Chelsea Table), Bernie's distinctive ability to work with his clients results in a collaborative product unique to each piece.

Work History

- 1991-present** **Owner, Bernie Ross**
Design, build, and sell custom-order and one-of a kind sculpture including:
- wood sculpture and furniture
 - dolls, marionettes, and toys
 - period and contemporary hats, clothing and accessories
 - theatrical props and weaponry
 - costumes and masks
- 1991-2000** **Properties Artisan/Designer, West Bay Opera**
Part of a team of designers for nine full seasons.
- Created two five-foot long medieval broadswords for *Count Ory*.
 - Created toy canon, dolls, and jack-in-the-box for *La Boheme*.
 - Created sight-gags, including a flying top hat for *Die Fledermaus*.
 - Created assassin's dagger, assorted weaponry and masks for *Rigoletto*.
 - Created magic flute and calimba, moon-and-star staff and large birdcage for the *The Magic Flute*.
- 1991-1996** **Millinery and Accessories, Properties Artisan, Opera San Jose'**
Millinery and accessories for *L'Ormino* (1991) and properties artisan for the 1992-1993 and 1995-1996 seasons.
- Created brass Conquistador helmets, papier-mache Quetzalcoat mask, and feathered headdresses for the locally written opera *Popol Vuh*.
 - Acted as historical weapons consultant and constructed a crossbow, swords, and flintlock rifles and pistols for *Lucia di Lammermoor*.
- Education** In high school, Bernie took every art class he could and drew and painted in his free time. He then studied ceramics and sculpture for a few years at West Valley Community College and through community education.
- For the past 15 years, Bernie has learned traditional crafts and woodworking through books, from other artists and artisans, and by trial and error.