



Steeling Copper Metal Studio, LLC
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Rachel Pace Bio

In December of 2011 I had this idea to give my friends hand-crafted, metal garden art as Christmas presents. The only problem being—I knew nothing about hand-crafting metal anything, let alone garden art. One day, my uncle turned me loose in his barn with a specialized cutting torch called a plasma cutter. Standing there that cold, cold December day, absolutely fascinated by the frog that I had just willed to life from this rusty, awful piece of steel—Steeling Copper Metal Studio was born—only I just didn't know it yet. The first piece I gave as a gift netted me an order for four additional pieces which turned into even more orders for custom pieces.

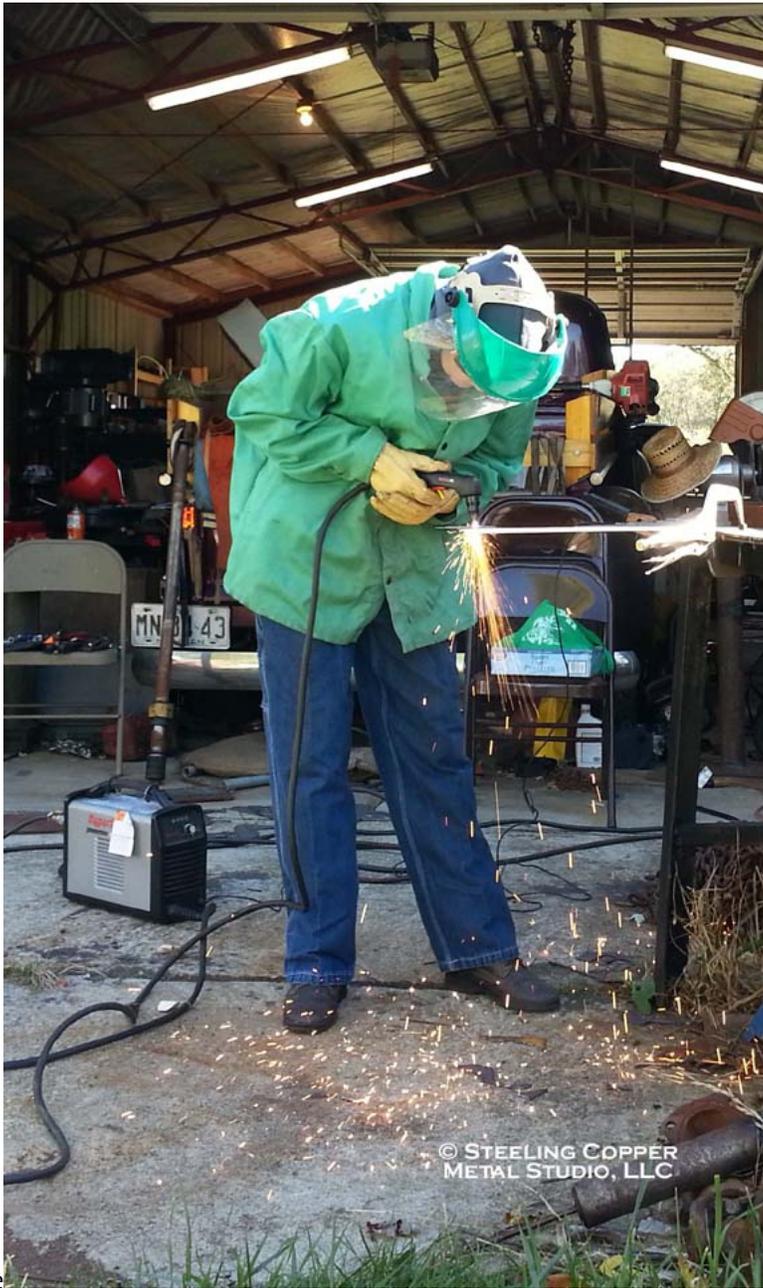
I recognized I had an opportunity to turn my creative outlet of crafting handmade metal garden art into a full-time business venture. In January of 2012, I filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Ohio, applied for a Vendor's License and became a tax-paying, tax collecting entity operating as a Steeling Copper Metal Studio, LLC. I am solely responsible for the design, production, marketing, sales and all financial aspects related to my company. I sell my pieces at arts & crafts fairs and retail establishments in and around the Columbus area.

My company philosophy centers on the motto "Inspired by nature — slightly obsessed with copper." True to my company name, my materials have always been a combination of steel with copper accents. I pride myself on using materials which have been recycled, re-visualized and repurposed to make something beautiful for someone to enjoy for years to come. For an artist who is inspired by nature, and an avid promoter of Monarch conservation, having my first large piece depict the four stages of the Monarch butterfly is a dream come true.

I have primarily focused on smaller, residential sized pieces. I have created and sold hundreds since founding Steeling Copper. Over these past two years I have acquired and honed new skills which have allowed me to create larger, more complicated, sculpture-type pieces. The installation being proposed for Westgate Park will be by far the largest piece I have ever created. In keeping with my dedication to recycling, this piece will be fully crafted using stainless steel material, all of which will come from a scrap yard. The copper accents will also be created from recycled materials.

Patti Von Niessen has introduced me to her fellow Westgate resident Joe Lamothe. Joe has extensive experience in metal fabrication on a scale of this nature. He is prepared to help with any technical support for the creation of the sculpture, as well as logistics and installation of the completed piece. I am confident that together Joe and I can produce a piece will meet the standards of the City Of Columbus.

I was born and raised on the West Side of Columbus but moved to Grove City in 2007. I like to tell people—you can take the girl out of the West Side, but you can't take the West Side out of the girl. As an artist and long-time resident, it is a tremendous honor to be asked to be part of bringing the first piece of free-standing art to Westgate Park and the surrounding communities. I am looking forward to creating something worthy of the honor.



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