

Bio - Nol Putnam

Born in Boston, MA, 1934

Grew up in Northwestern Connecticut

Educated at: local public school - 1940-1947
Lenox School for Boys - 1947-1951
Deerfield Academy - 1951-1952
Trinity College (Hartford, CT) 1952-1954
US Army 1954-1957
Trinity College 1957-1959 (BA)
Harvard Graduate School, Summer program 1963, 1964, 1965
UMass, School of Ed, 1968-1972 (MEd)

Work: taught at Lenox School for Boys, 1959-1971
Northfield Mount Hermon, 1971-1972
taught myself blacksmithing 1972-to present

Concentrations: 1972-1982 - household items
1982-2002 - architectural smithing, gates, balconies
Washington National Cathedral,
Rockefeller Estate, Pocantico Hills, etc.
2002- present, Sculpture for private clients.

My Sister, Toni Putnam, and I are the fourth generation on my mother's side of the family out of five, to take up working metal in some form. We both came to it late. I can remember Toni going off to Miss William's school for art at age 4. Ultimately graduating from Mills College in California. She has progressed through painting, clay forms, into sculptural forms cast in bronze, to the creation of large forms from nature, made from small pieces of copper welded over armatures. Because of illness she is no longer able to create. I am showing four of her pieces.

I have had minimal formal education in smithing. When I started there were few schools to attend. But I know how to learn on my own. By the 1980's various craft schools had started classes, and I have taught in many of them. By 2000, I was tired of creating for others, and taking a cue from Toni, began to explore my own images. I moved my shop away from the maddening crowd and all those distractions. What you see in my forge and on my grounds is almost where I am.

Summer, 2018