

Biography for artist Jason E. Butler

Butler has dreamed of being a professional artist since grade school. His first three-dimensional pieces were made while attending Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. After working in the foundry for two years he fabricated his first steel works in 2001. He was immediately intrigued by the physicality of the process and the vast options of the material. Butler graduated from HSU in 2002.

In 2003 he relocated to Tucson and began work on his Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Arizona. Here, he taught undergraduate courses and focused on his artwork. In 2004 he began working with Doug Thompson, a professional fabricator and blacksmith (www.dtmetalcraft.com). This industry experience affected his art and process immensely. In 2006 he introduced forged steel elements to his sculptural compositions.

After earning his MFA degree Butler opened his own studio and taught art at a Tucson high school. He has taught numerous metalworking seminars in the Tucson area to both teens and adults. Butler is currently Adjunct Art Faculty at Pima College where he teaches art, design and metalworking courses. In addition, he runs Special Interest Metalwerks fabricating creative projects for architectural applications. He recently entered the public art scene with a large commission for the City of Tucson.

Butler draws inspiration from nature. In his work, he juxtaposes organic lines against geometric planes and angles. He is currently painting the surfaces of his sculptures with richly layered and brightly colored marks reminiscent of graffiti. He focuses on displaying his works out of doors where he believes the most people will see them. His large sculptures are currently on view in Louisiana, Kansas, Virginia, Oregon and several sites in California including Los Angeles. To see examples of Butler's work please visit: www.jasonebutler.com.

Butler has been involved in competitive cycling since his teenage years. In 1994 he served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He and his wife, Mary have five children.