

Todd Bogatay

Architect

I am an artist/architect with major interests in integrating the arts into architecture and architecture into the ecology. My father was my first and best teacher. He was an artist in ceramics; pottery and sculpture. From him and many others, studies and travels, I learned a greater appreciation of the quality and nature of materials and design processes and acceptance of the



value and joy of truth and beauty. I am an urban refugee. I got tired of the stress, inconvenience and danger of city life and moved to Bisbee in 1981. I love my life here, it is healthy and inspiring. I want to show people how it is possible to live in a beautiful place without destroying it. I want to show how to build with beauty and economy in regenerative and sustainable ways.

I love sculpture, it is quicker than architecture and I can be totally free; I draw and paint. I built my own house and studio, Binaziz (Apache for “eyelid”), on Juniper Flats starting in 1981. I restored the Old City Hall in 1993, and made an office and the Spirit Gallery out of the old Mobil Station at 516 Tombstone Canyon beginning in 1998.

Sculpture: My latest work has been with quartz and other kinds of rocks. I work by putting the rocks together with steel armatures and cement mortar. I do not carve the rocks. I’m interested in ambiguity. In different lights and at different times the works are perceived differently. Also most of them become a different work simply by rotating them. Ambiguity is a kind of door to the other side. Like the hole (void or shadow) in a Japanese garden, ambiguity opens to questions of different nature, demands attention and creates continuing interest. Beauty forms are in the nature of the materials and forms. Each piece is a part of a process of assembly, often directed by the parts. The process is never the same which makes it exciting to continue with new works. I also work with scrap metal, wood and clay.

I have exhibited in Bisbee at the Subway Gallery, the Firehouse Gallery and the Spirit Gallery. Works are in many private collections. I work independently on my own projects, work with clients in the traditional architectural way, and do design works on commission, such as sculptures, fountains and landscaping.