

# South Coast

Magazine of the California Riviera

Fall 2005

**LORETO BAY**  
Soul-Stirring  
Beauty

A Walk Through Randy Morgan's  
**MASTERPIECE DOORS**





Bronze Oasis Doors

## Masterpiece Door Collection

A walk through Randy Morgan's masterpiece doors.

By Jens Bloodrose

Randy Morgan is a unique artist who has lived and worked in the Laguna Beach area over the last 35 years. He has been displayed in galleries and worked with architects, interior designers and landscape architects in creating his matchless art. And while his art has encompassed all mediums, his forte has been sculpture. Over the last two decades he has achieved the status as one of the preeminent bas relief sculptors and marine artists and has won awards and critical recognition along the way.



Randy Morgan putting the finishing touches on "California Dreaming" door.

If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear to man as it is: **Infinite.**

William Blake

His art hangs at Laguna Beach's famed Café Zoolu. The Dana Point Harbor Commission voted unanimously authorizing Morgan to sculpt a thirty foot bronze bas relief whale entitled "Mother and Calf" that will be exhibited at the Dana Point Harbor.

Some 15 years ago he began sculpting doors. "I love doors" says Morgan. "To me there is something both mystical and symbolic about them." Morgan's doors have graced entryways as diverse as the homes of celebrities such as rock star Sting as well as the corporate headquarters of Wahoo Fish Tacos. Their themes of ocean life, rain forests, tropical birds, tributes to artist Paul Gauguin and surfer motifs all share a naturalist view of the world as well as a profound environmental concern.

"It has been my goal to make my sculptures more accessible", says Morgan. "There had been such great feedback on the doors that it occurred to me that here was a way for people to enjoy the art and have it function as a practical everyday part of their home. I love the fact that the doors function on multiple levels. When utility combines with art that hopefully makes people think of the beautiful natural world around them. If it acts to foster their desire to help save that world in any degree than I've done my job as an artist."

The challenge was that the earlier doors required a lot of wood carving. The increasing rarity and



1. "Pelican Coast" door - Bronze & Mahogany
2. "Leap of Faith" - Bronze
3. "Kona Coast" door - Bronze & Mahogany
4. "Save the Rain Forest" door - Bronze & Mahogany
5. "Tribute Gauguin" door, front side - Alder Wood
6. "Tribute Gauguin" door, back side - Alder Wood.



1. Sculptured Tile Mural ~ 48" x 80" for "Cafe Zoolu" in Laguna Beach. 2. "Trojan Horse" - Terra Cotta 36" x 40"  
3. "Full Sail" ~ Bronze 48" x 48"

expense of good wood as well as the time consumption involved in individually hand carved doors drove Morgan to seek less cost prohibitive means for his entry way creations. This involved experimentation with mediums and techniques that he had not previously employed.

Eventually he developed a style that allowed the creation of sculpted metal doors that are noteworthy both for their beauty and durability. He and his partner formed "The Masterpiece Door Collection" (tm). Their goal is to produce doors that reflect their concerns about the environment while providing more people with the opportunity to own a piece of art that also functions for everyday use. The look and composition of the doors make them versatile for both indoor and outdoor uses. Morgan's hands on approach also makes possible custom designs that can be created aside from the cur-

rent line of sculpted metal doors.

"I grew up in the 60's and my generation came to love the music, art and spirituality that came out of that era. Today I see many people returning to those values. I see it reflected in their desires to be in touch with those feelings as expressed in how they decorate their homes. At the very least, if our doors can put a daily smile on someone's face that makes me feel good", says Morgan.



One of Morgan's designs, a door depicting parrots in the tropics entitled "Save the Rain Forest", is offered by Masterpiece Doors. By arrangement with singer Jimmy Buffet's "Parrothead" foundation, for each of the rain forest doors sold, a tax deductible donation will be made to the foundation which distributes monies to environmental and charitable causes.

The Masterpiece Door Collection (trademark) can be viewed at Rogers Gardens in Newport Beach, California and will soon be exhibited at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, California. Masterpiece Door Collection can be contacted directly at its offices in San Juan Capistrano, California at (949) 218-9356.

1. "Save the Rhinos" - Bronze 36" x 42"  
 2. "Surfer Porthole" door - Bronze & Brass  
 3. Randy with "California Dreaming" door.