

Chicago Alliance of Visual Artists



FEATURED CAVA ARTIST

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After a successful career in law and technology consulting, CAVA member **ERIC STEELE** shifted his focus to creating abstract sculpture. He dove in with both feet, studying metal sculpture, jewelry, blacksmithing and related metal arts at Evanston Art Center, Lill Street Art Center, and the Ox-Bow Summer Program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Chancel Abandoned, welded steel

Eric's welded steel sculpture explores how buildings, bridges, vehicles and other physical infrastructure that surrounds us also has a profound influence on us. "We live in the negative space created by those structures," says Eric, "and they affect how we think of ourselves and the world, and how we express our ideas and beliefs."



New Chancel II, welded steel

Eric's legal and consulting experience showed him the ways in which rules and processes shape our lives, how we think, and what we do. In his sculptures studies, he is exploring how the physical environment also impacts our lives. "My current welded steel sculpture explores the interaction of man with the built and natural environments," he says. "The organic forms of man and nature are represented by architectural metaphors. My sculptures are totems, using vocabulary of our urban surroundings to express what we think, see and feel, just as ancient totems used forests, beasts, and mountains to reflect the ideas and emotions of their creators."



Left: *Victor*, welded steel; Right: *Totem I*, welded steel

Eric's work has been exhibited in solo exhibitions at the Renaissance Court Gallery, Chicago Cultural Center, the Arts Club of Chicago, Zhou B Art Center, and the Lincolnwood Village Hall, as well as included in numerous group shows and private collections.



Eric with his welded steel sculpture Flame

[To find out more about Eric, and see more of his work, check out his web site www.ErichSteele.com](http://www.ErichSteele.com)