



## Redefining the Art of Life

“One of my greatest passions in life is simply people watching,” says sculptor Roy W. Butler.

A genuine student of life and self-taught, he is passionately devoted to his art and possessed with a rare talent for creating sensitive and moving images that touch the soul.

As a child growing up in rural middle Tennessee, he began developing his artistic and technical talents at an early age. When money allowed, much time was spent assembling model kits, mostly automotive, with an expertise of build and finish that rivaled that of young people twice his age.

## ■ Roy W. Butler ■

A sculptural lamp base with black shade is part of Butler's accessory line.

During high school, Butler heard of a national competition sponsored by General Motors Corporation in which entrants had to totally design, hand fabricate and build  $\frac{1}{12}$ <sup>th</sup> precision scale automobiles of the future. These were not store bought model kits but automobiles fabricated from components created and produced by each entrant. He was eligible to enter three separate years and won nationally recognized awards each year.

His talents were also devoted to drawing. "I used to spend so much time drawing everything in sight that I would run out of sketch pads and my mother would often hide the kitchen paper towels," says Butler, "because that's where I headed next."

Word quickly spread of his artistic ability and a local contractor commissioned a full color, watercolor perspective rendering of a recently completed home which was to be submitted to a national trade manufacturer. Several months after completion, the rendering appeared in a Life magazine advertisement; Butler was sixteen years old.



One of 20 poses in the Andros Series.



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Butler's nickname, Da Vinci, given to him by a nationally recognized portrait photographer, was self-fulfilling. As his talents evolved, creative interests developed into a successful career combining art of the human form, fine art sculpture, painting, photography, computer graphics and architectural design.

Many years later in 1988, he found the culmination to expressing his true passion for people through the medium of life casting; a medium of sculpture often utilized by renowned sculptors such as John De Andrea, George Segal and J. Seward Johnson. Creating life sculptures that are more than art, they

capture the essence of each unique individual and allow their true inner spirit to emerge.

Butler says, "Life casting is an art form that allows me to combine creative and technical skills into producing works of art that accurately replicate the visual sensation of human life." His demand for the highest degree of quality and excellence of work shows in every piece which also allows the art to be an important archival and heirloom resource. He has been quoted by ALI founders, an international professional organization, as being the most artistic, technically detailed life cast sculptor on the planet. Wow, now that's a compliment!

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Life-size bronze: Army and Navy military service members stand guard over the historic monument dedicated to all past, present and future veterans of Claude Sims American Legion Post #68, Brinkley Arkansas. Claude Sims, was a veteran originally from the Brinkley area, who fought during World War I and was killed and buried in France. Made of bronze and Georgian granite, the monument stands 9' high by 13' long and contains a central monolith with 2 bronze tablets accommodating approximately 600 names of honored veterans.

Butler recently won 1st place in the 2006 international sculpture competition for ALI with the USCT National Monument.



His vision often combines these skills with hi-realism fine art clay sculpting techniques to create astonishing detailed works that allow us to experience our true spirit of life in pure, three-dimensional art of the human form. Recently, evolving more heavily into fine art miniatures of life, his style and detail has often been compared to Rodin.

Butler's fine art sculpting credits include national historical monuments listed with The Smithsonian, members of the entertainment industry including Oprah Winfrey's father, sports celebrities, international magazines, public exhibits and commissions for private and corporate collections throughout the United States.

Butler produces home accessories including lamps, plaques, and other architectural reproductions from his studio in Henderson. His popular Breeze series is a collection of life-sized and half-life free draped female forms handcrafted to reflect the charm of old-world sculptures in style and finish.

He is currently working on his Andros (man in Greek) series, 20 sculptural poses (one quarter life size) depicting the male form. The sculptures are mounted on a black acrylic base and come in bronze, champagne and green finishes. When this series is complete, he will begin his female series. ☺

To find out more about Roy's art, contact him at [www.roywbutler.com](http://www.roywbutler.com) or email [rbicom@earthlink.net](mailto:rbicom@earthlink.net).