



dan dennis



My age is...? I'm 36 years old

I live in...? Lititz, PA

I knew I was going to be an artist when...? I've always had artistic tendencies, but there was never an "aha" moment. It was much more of a gradual thing.

My learning experiences include...? I'm self-taught and was just looking for a way out of the restaurant business, you know, "necessity is the mother of invention". For a long time, I felt like Noah building the Ark! My last and only wood shop class was in the seventh grade. My college degree (which took 11 years to acquire,) was in English Literature and Philosophy.

I think I stood out when...? Two years ago, I went full-time and realized that no one was doing what I was doing. There are rustic furniture makers and there are fine furniture makers, but I was somewhere in between, doing my own thing.

My long-term goals are...? I simply want to get up in the morning and get better and better at making furniture. I also want to hit bigger markets.

My biggest challenge has been...? My biggest challenge is just keeping the boat afloat - I wear a lot of hats (salvaging, milling, building, selling) so I have to prioritize and work towards deadlines. This year, however, I'm making a point not to stress too much.

I sell my work by (at)...? Abode on South Street in Philly, and a few other places, although six months out of the year I try to concentrate on shows and retail.

My signature work is...? All of my pieces are "signature" in the sense that they are original concepts and one-of-a-kind, but I run with about seven or eight basic "themes". A childhood spent in Japan probably helps lend a zen-like simplicity to my work.

My advice to young artists is...?

Do what you love, and the rest will follow. Somebody is going to love what you are doing. I have a friend who (on a bet) sold a potato on Ebay. If that's not encouragement, I don't know what is!

