



CARVE, TEXTURE AND PAINT A COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Instructor – Cam Merkle

Skill Level: All skill levels

This beautiful hummingbird, native to Southern California, has one of the most beautiful and interesting gorgets (throat patches) of any North American hummingbird. In this class you will learn techniques to carve a full, round perched bird in a somewhat animated pose, showing fluffiness in the body feathers. You will learn to create a realistic iridescence on all parts of the bird using your choice of acrylic or oil paints. While the bird will be painted primarily with acrylic paints, you will have the option to work with oil paints to render the amazing magenta and deep violet iridescence in the gorget and on top of the head. Time permitting, we will also cover mounting the bird and elements of composition.

Carver, inventor, and author Cam Merkle has been teaching bird carving for over 25 years. In the late 1980's and early 1990's he was a full-time professional bird carver, winning top awards at many shows across North America. He is the founder of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Art Association, a non-profit group dedicated to promotion and education on wildlife art. His company, Razertip Industries Inc., manufactures pyrographic (woodburning) tools and portable dust management systems and sells specialty carving supplies to bird and fish carvers. Cam's carvings can be found in collections around the world. Today, Cam is kept busy running Razertip Industries, writing carving articles, teaching, speaking, judging and competing at carving shows, and working on his own carvings.

Cam and his wife Lori live north of Martensville, Saskatchewan, on 80 acres that they have designated a "protected wildlife habitat" with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. Both avid photographers, they love spending time outdoors kayaking & snowshoeing and going for walks.