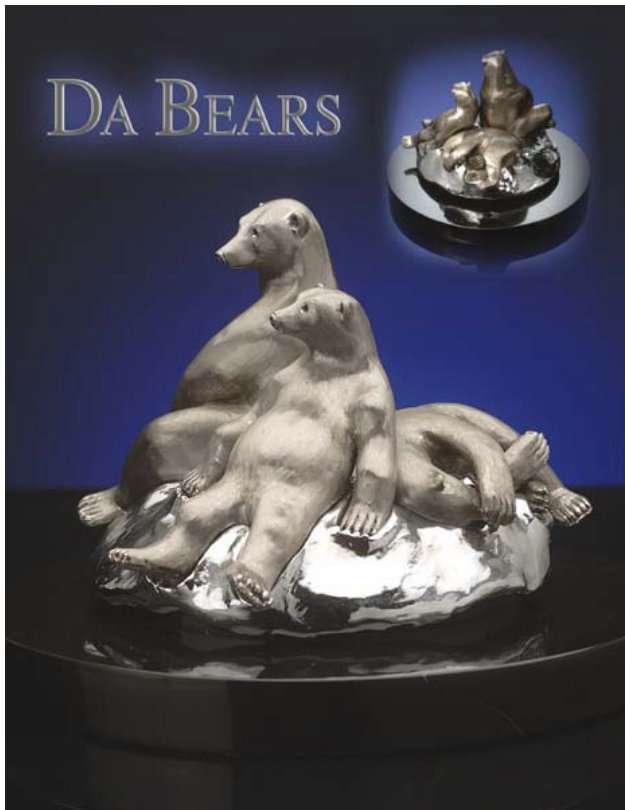


MARK NORDQUIST

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Mark Nordquist became a sculptor quite unexpectedly. The brother of a talented painter, artist was never an identity he possessed.

In truth, functional art was a natural evolution for this athlete and entrepreneur. His affection for animals, love of games and appreciation of things with both beauty and function all contributed to his entry into the world of art.

At midlife Mark, an avid scuba diver, was inspired to sculpt his first chess set with a sea animal theme (Le Mer). Self-taught, his sculpting was initially a hobby. Today animal-themed chess sets are the signature works in his line of useable fine art sculptures.

Mark's affinity for nature started early. A California native whose family always included a menagerie of pets, Mark loved the outdoors, spending vacations at the beach, the mountains

and the desert. Introduced to camping, fishing and hunting through the Boy Scouts, Mark earned the highest rank of Eagle at age 13.

The youngest of three brothers, Mark developed the heart of a gamesman early. He enjoyed football, basketball and even chess, which was to figure strongly in his sculpting future. After college, Mark went on to play for 9 years in the National Football League (Philadelphia Eagles, Chicago Bears) where he was an offensive guard and team captain.

Mark's creative side was first glimpsed when he began to design and build products. Post-football, he became an entrepreneur, first in medical manufacturing as co-founder of DonJoy, today dj Ortho, world's largest manufacturer of knee braces. Later, in the field of real estate, he became a developer-builder of semi-custom ocean view homes in North Coastal San Diego. In whatever he created, Mark always believed in the combining of beauty and function.



Still an entrepreneur, Mark finds balance doing real estate, executive coaching and speaking, along with his sculpting. Still a gamesman, he plays basketball regularly and finds time for nature at the beach and on the ski slopes each winter. He lives in Southern California with his wife of 39 years, Joy, two Labradors and a Himalayan cat.