

## Scrimshaw History



Scrimshaw is an art form with a long history. Early man hunted the wooly mammoth and mastodon for food. The beautiful tusks were used to make tools and talismans which were believed to carry the protective spirit of the animal. Early Egyptians and Eskimos alike utilized the ivories in their environments and carved them into useful and decorative pieces.

In the early nineteenth century,

ships went out to hunt for whales. The sailors were often away from home for months, even years at a time. Some sailors used their idle time to carve whale teeth and bones. The work was mostly crude; lines cut with pocketknives or sail needles depicted mainly nautical themes. The lines were filled with squid ink or lampblack to contrast with the light ivory. From the varied dialects of the ocean whalers, this new pastime came to be known as scrimshaw.

Scrimshaw nearly disappeared when whaling ended. President Kennedy collected historical scrimshaw and commissioned artists to create new works for his collection. Scrimshaw saw a revival and began to evolve as new artists were attracted to this unique form of art. Today, fine tools are used with a variety of pigments in a full pallet of colors to produce works of lasting beauty.

The sale and use of ivory is currently under attack in America. It started with a presidential Executive Order July 2013 then 6 tons of ivory destroyed by a rock crusher in Denver. Lies have been used to make ivory owners into criminals. No elephant should be killed for it's ivory. Ivory from natural deaths could be sold to protect the existing herds. I am working to stop the poachers including going to Washington June 9, 2014 to speak before the Advisory Council. Many of us are joining to protect the elephants and the property rights of ivory owners. To learn more please check the newest information at www.elephantprotection. org and www.fws.gov/wildlife-trafficking-questions-and-answers.





## Linda Karst Stone Scrimshander

In 1976, as a high school art student in Ohio, Linda was introduced to scrimshaw when hired by a local business. The job lasted long enough to teach the basic techniques and launch her long-lasting career. Linda pursued fine art training at the University of Toledo and the Toledo Museum of Art. Her focus on anatomy, figure drawing and design are reflected in her work today.

Linda's scrimshaw is created in the traditional method without a machine. A hand-held carbide steel-tipped scribe is used to combine techniques including line, stipple and crosshatching to define her subject matter. The black lines are created by scratching into the surface then filling that void with black India ink, excess ink is cleaned off the surface. The color areas are also incised one at a time, dark to light. Pigments rubbed into the lines are Winsor & Newton artists' water colors chosen for their permanence and quality of pigments. Renaissance wax finishes filling the small lines to help protect the delicate design. She prefers ivory as her canvas, a material that can possess warmth and personality and often suggests a particular subject or composition. Her realistic style has depth and a sculptural quality that bring her subjects to life. Linda takes thousands of photographs to inspire her compositions. She enjoys bringing the ideas, experiences and memories of her clients, together with her own, to create unique art pieces for them.

Linda is rooted in the Texas Hill Country with her husband, Mark Stone. Together they really enjoy renovating historic buildings. www.DepotSquareKerrville.com

