

Uta Strelive

Uta remembers feeding Blaumeisen (Blue Tit) at her home in what was Eastern Germany when she was barely tall enough to look over the window sill. Thus began her fascination with and love of birds and it has never diminished. Nature and birds have been the center of her passion throughout her life.

A year after completing her B. A. in Textile Technology, she fled her native Germany and was able to immigrate to Canada one year later. She settled into her second career as a Biological Technologist at the University of Saskatchewan and began part time studies in Art. Three years later she moved to the Ontario Research Foundation in Toronto. Relocation of the Foundation brought her to the University of Guelph as Instructor in Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology.

During this period, in 1981, she discovered bird carving as an emerging art form. She took a weekend carving course with Paul Burdette, and this launched a new career in bird carving. She honed her skills in courses with Bob Ptashnik, Pat Godin, Bob Guge, and Larry Barth. She developed her own style and her pieces have won first place and best of show ribbons in most of the competitions she has entered including the prestigious "World" in Ocean City. Her birds reside in homes and boardrooms in Canada, United States, England and France. Her sculptures have appeared in private shows and been on display in various galleries in Canada and in the United States. She has taught carving and sculpture design to carving clubs, and given seminars to arts groups, primarily in her adopted Ontario.

Her carving career took a hiatus for a few years during the early 1990's when she received a scholarship to study at the International Academy of Design, Toronto Campus. She completed the thirty six month degree course in twenty four months, graduating at the top of her class. But after a few years working in Interior Design and Computer Graphics, bird carving lured her back. Now her favorite time is spent in her home studio in Eden Mills, transforming a block of wood into a biologically correct, artistically conceived sculpture.