

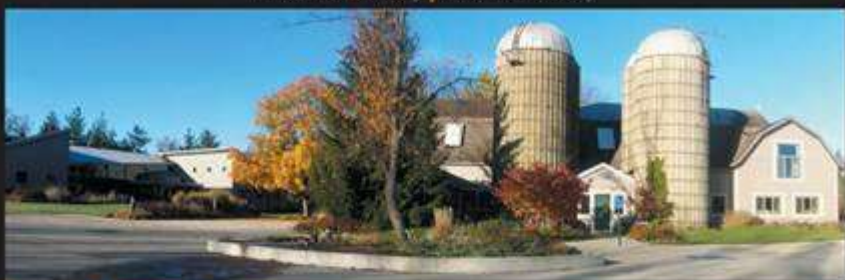
artist profile

A regular profile of artists exhibiting in the Fox Valley

DAN CALDWELL

THE FINE LINE CREATIVE ARTS CENTER

6N158 CRANE ROAD | ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60175 | 630.584.9443
info@finelineca.org | www.finelineca.org



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Year round day/evening classes and workshops in:

Weaving | Hand and Frame Knitting | crochet | Spinning
Dyeing | Metals | Glass | Pottery | Painting | Drawing
Watercolor | Papermaking | Surface Design | Calligraphy

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an Caldwell is a Blacksmith instructor at the Fine Line Creative Arts Center in St. Charles. He has been teaching various aspects of metal arts for the past 9 years, usually concentrating on forging steel and copper. In addition to blacksmithing, Dan teaches copper forging, knife making, wind chimes, welding and Mokume Gane. Dan has always had an interest in both 2D and 3D art. While completing his BS degree at NIU, Dan concentrated on 2D art and graphic design. Out of curiosity Dan took a few sculpture classes and was hooked on metals and forging. Years later, in the early 90's, Dan started forging high end knives and swords, selling them at sporting shows and Renaissance faires part time. He "went full-time" for a few years beginning in 2000. In addition to forging knives, Dan also started doing various custom ornamental and functional iron/copper objects for local landscapers. Dan thinks that his background in art has given him an important foundation and eye for design of his pieces. In this world of mass produced, cold



and impersonal disposability, he takes great pride in producing one of a kind art pieces. Some of Dan's more complex works, such as his Damascus knives, have hundreds of hours of hand-work in them. The forging operations can be physically demanding. Sometimes it takes days to make a special patterned 800 layer Damascus bar that is the start of a sword. He prefers to do most or all the work himself using only basic power tools. If you would like to try your hand and discover your hidden blacksmith, you can find a listing of Dan's classes at www.fineline.org under "classes metals." You can see many more of his pieces at caldwellmetalart.com.