

MEMBERS' GALLERY

Tom Ronayne, Ireland

Since my first visit to the megalithic tombs in the Boyne Valley, County Meath, Ireland, over forty years ago, I have been awestruck and fascinated by Irish megalithic art. I have made many gifts in 3,000- to 5,000-year-old Irish bog oak and have often replicated Irish megalithic designs in my work, especially on wall hangings.

In 2017, I spent two wonderful days with Nick Agar in his workshop. This one-on-one experience opened my eyes and, more importantly, my mind to how to express myself in woodturning. I created *Influences* under Nick's tutelage, and the sectional nature of this piece led me to explore designs

turned in square blocks. Eventually, I settled into a system of turning nine blocks held in a jig that allows the blocks to be repositioned and re-turned. *Out of the Dark* was made in this way, using a gouge.

In subsequent pieces, I found it was nearly impossible to recreate the cuts with a gouge when I removed and replaced some of the squares, so now I use a router, with the workpiece held on the lathe and rotated slowly by hand.

By turning and then rotating the blocks, I found I could create geometric patterns, which developed into *Loughcrew - Cairns I & T*, which shows megalithic designs. An infinite number of patterns can be created, limited only by your imagination.



Influences, 2017, Carved, wire-brushed, textured, and burned white oak, ebonising lacquer, acrylic metal paint, verdigris wax, 14½" x 11½" x 2¼"
(37cm x 30cm x 7cm)



Out of the Dark, 2017, Burned, textured, and wire-brushed white oak, spirit stains, acrylic and other paints, 11½" x 11½" x 1½"
(29cm x 29cm x 4cm)



The author's router/lathe setup, along with a jig that holds nine squares that can be repositioned to make varied patterns.

Loughcrew - Cairns I & T, 2021, Textured, burned, wire-brushed, and carved white oak, milk paint, gold paint, wax, lacquer, 15¾" x 15¾" x 1"
(39cm x 39cm x 25mm)