

Ben Masters *(USA)*

Ben Masters, from Davis Technical College in Kaysville, Utah, won the 2024 SkillsUSA Welding Sculpture Championships with his sculpture “The Hunt”.

His father taught him to weld when he was a child. After learning the basics, they made giant insects from pots and pans to practice. Ben loved making welded art as a child, but he wouldn’t make another sculpture until he enrolled in welding school at 26 years old. After finishing the standard classes, he took a sculpting course to fill out his credit hours. He made “The Hunt,” and his welding instructor suggested he entered it in the SkillsUSA Welding Sculpture Competition. His sculpture won at the State level and then won the national competition too. He went to school to be a welder, and he left with a passion for sculpting.

Contact info

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Exhibit “The Hunt”

Ben is from Utah, in the United States. He wanted to represent the delicate desert ecosystem of his home state with his piece “The Hunt.”

His goal was to replicate the colour, shape, and texture of the red sandstone rock features that his home is known for.

Utah’s mountain lions aren’t as well-known as its red arches, but they are an important predator to the ecosystem.

The mountain lion, and the rock feature it stands on, are made of steel.

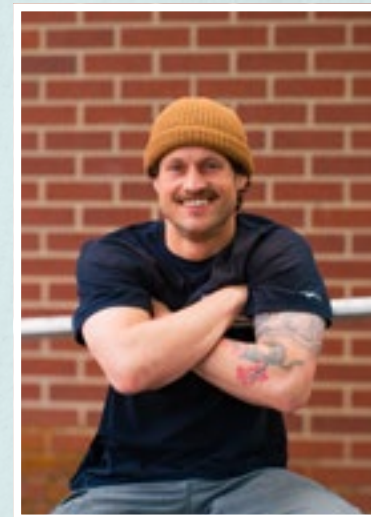
All material for the arch was cut and formed with a plasma cutter. The rock features are completely hollow, so he could hide the welds on the inside. The colour comes from a thin sheet of copper, cut directly over the steel base with a plasma cutter.

For the mountain lion, he constructed the torso and appendages separately. He cut the silhouette of each limb from 1/8” steel using a laser cutting table. He welded directly onto the silhouettes to build the 3D shape of each piece before combining them. He mostly used Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), but Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW) was used for the fine facial features.

He added colour to the cat through brass brushing. The juniper tree is made of copper wire and welded to the steel base with silicon bronze.

Dimensions of Exhibit

45 cm high x 50 cm long x 45 cm wide, Weight 44 Kilograms.





The Hunt
Ben Masters
Photos by Carly Erickson

