

**October 7 - November 4, 2022**

# **Simple Shapes**

A Retrospective by  
Elliot Norquist

**Sponsored by Main Street Gallery & The Framer**

At the Carbondale Arts Gallery  
in The Launchpad (76 S 4th Street)  
[carbondalearts.com](http://carbondalearts.com) | 970-963-1680  
Open weekdays 10am - 5pm

## ELLIOT NORQUIST

### Biography

In 1989, when my son was born, I built a series of works in elemental shapes with bright colors...children's colors. That show was a statement of joy and hope and color.

Now I am back there in a way (add 35+ years) with new shapes and different colors. The challenge is to make it work without losing the integrity of shape or color. Ask a painter about the power of color, and ask a sculptor about the power of shape. Ask me, somewhere in the middle, about the power of both things. That describes my current artistic efforts.

I've often told my students that the closest thing to a powerful piece is a really dumb piece. As a kayaker my son has had to choose the most powerful line down a rapid, which is often the line closest to disaster. I try for that line in sculpture. Much like any pursuit, to be safe is not acceptable, to be great is the aspiration, and to crash is also part of the process. The mix of all these creates art marked by passion, joy, regret, and best of all hope. My hope is to get to continue the process and the journey.

Learn more about the artist at [elliottnorquistart.com](http://elliottnorquistart.com)



### Artist Statement

Carbondale-based artist Elliot Norquist is known primarily for his metal sculptures but this solo exhibition, a retrospective titled "Simple Shapes", also includes prints on paper from the 1990s, steel works from various periods, as well as his most recent metal-based sculptures. All are inspired by simple shapes.

Elliot says, "Years of simple shapes (mostly squares) have run me through the gamut of choices in forms and finishes...severe, pure, bright, painted, rusted, old, worn, smooth, and rough: pieces in site, pieces about site. Pieces about walls or light, and pieces about both elements."



### Acknowledgements

This exhibition is generously supported by the Main Street Gallery and The Framer LTD, which has represented Western Colorado's finest artists and provided custom framing since 1982. Learn more at [mainstreetgall.com](http://mainstreetgall.com).

Special thanks to Laura Stover for gallery layout and to Kirk Robinson for installation assistance.

## Know Your Artist, Know Your Art

Carbondale Arts believes in the power of art and we know you do, too. There is a deep connection that happens when you purchase a piece of art, and getting to know the artist makes that connection even deeper. Carbondale Arts hosts over 10 art exhibitions every year. Find some art you love and dive in.

We have launched a [“Know Your Artist, Know Your Art”](#) campaign, as Carbondale Arts works to build relationships between artists and patrons. Inspired by the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model of Investing in local food, this Community Supported Art movement promotes the investment of local artists making a living in and around the [Carbondale Creative District](#), where Carbondale Arts makes its home.

### Gallery Committee Members

**Staff:** Brian Colley, Staci Dickerson, Amy Kimberly

**Non-staff:** Savanna LaBauve (chair), Marilyn Lowey, Sally Nicholson, Vanessa Porras, Laura Stover, David Thickman, and Matt Vickers

Learn more about this exhibition and visit the space virtually at [carbondalearts.com/exhibitions](http://carbondalearts.com/exhibitions)



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