

ABSTRACT

Mountmaking and the Mind's Eye

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Principle

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Building a mount for an object starts with an idea. We cannot bend metal without a path on which to base a curve. The form of the object will define that curve, but the path derives from somewhere else. It comes from a mount concept assembled from observations of the object combined with the specific parameters of how it will be exhibited.

I find the concept forms a picture in my mind, or as is commonly said, I see it in my mind's eye. Not only do I see the mount, but I visualize the order of operations to construct it. Which part overlaps the other, and which is brazed first. Finally, what are the actions that will be needed to install the object into the mount, and then into the exhibit.

In this presentation, I'd like to explore the role our mind's eye plays in the design and realization of the mounts we build. Our internal 3D CAD program is as important as any of our other tools and I feel it's time we acknowledge the role it plays in our amazing puzzle-solving profession.

BIO

Jamie Hascall

Jamie Hascall is an independent mountmaker living and working in Seattle Washington. He was trained in the art of mountmaking while working at the Burke Museum during his Museology studies at the University of Washington which led to many years of work with a six person mountmaking team building the new downtown Seattle Art Museum, and the renovation the old SAM into the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

After numerous years in private practice, he served as Chief Preparator of the Museums of New Mexico in Santa Fe for 7 years and in 2015-16, he trained a four-person crew at the new Alaska State Museum in Juneau and helped build mounts and install exhibits for the opening. His final museum project involved designing and building mounts for canoes and other large objects for the new Burke Museum in Seattle.

Jamie's lifelong interest in tinkering and repair, and previous career in fine woodworking, provided the solid grounding in tools, materials, and three dimensional thinking that informs his craft. Studies in conservation and non-toxic insect pest management have also contributed to his holistic philosophy of exhibit preparation and collections care.

At this point in his career, Jamie's focus is primarily on the education and training of a new generation of museum professionals. He gives training workshops at Mountmaking Focus Studio in Seattle.

