

IN THE STUDIO



STEVE WHIPPLE

IN A BARN A FEW MILES EAST of Columbia, an “artist blacksmith” gets to work. Steve Whipple is careful to make the distinction.

“There are a lot of good blacksmiths out there, and I’m not one of them,” he says.

Whipple adds that a blacksmith focuses on his craft instead of the piece he’s creating. For an artist blacksmith, the priority is the art being produced.

From an early age, Whipple enjoyed working with his hands and spent his time restoring go-carts and rebuilding engines. In addition to his work as an artist blacksmith, Whipple is self-employed as a maintenance consultant.

Whipple’s collection, on sale at Artlandish Gallery, includes garden gates, outdoor bells and some contemporary non-garden pieces.

✦ HUDSON KYLE



1

ANVIL

Whipple’s wife’s great-grandfather brought home the anvil at the end of World War I. After researching markings on the side of the anvil, Whipple traced back its origins almost two centuries to the British manufacturer Mousehole Forge.



2

FORGE

A forge is a tool designed to get metal to such a high temperature that it becomes pliable and allows the artisan to manipulate the piece. Whipple made this one out of a sawed-off oxygen tank and found the designs for the burners online. “Technology is so great today, especially for artists,” he says. “I can find pretty much anything on YouTube.”



3

WINE RACK

Whipple’s unfinished wine rack takes shape on his worktable. “It seems to be growing quite well,” he says. “The trouble will be determining when it should stop growing.” He hasn’t decided if he’ll keep or sell this first version, but he says he’ll definitely hold on to it until he’s completed a second.

PHOTOS BY AMY STROTH