

# WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2012

Issue 12 December 1, 2012

## ARTISTS AND PLUMB BOBS

Author: Wolf Ruecker

www.plumbbobcollectors.info

Dear Fellow Collector,  
Dear reader of the PLUMB BOB NEWS,

Please, as always I am in search of new photos, catalogs, articles or personal stories about any aspect of PLUMB BOBS from you. Any help is appreciated.

**If you have any information or pictures for these themes, please let me know.**

Thank you, looking forward to hearing from you

Wolf

### ARTISTS AND PLUMB BOBS TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	119
2. ANTONIA LOW - per gravitation.....	134
3. RICK ALEXANDER - dragonflies .....	135
4. JOHN WITTERSHEIM .....	136
5. TED METZ .....	137
6. HANS-PETER LUEBKE.....	138
7. CRAIG KOSAK .....	139
8. LARRY KIRKLAND DENVER CITY CENTER.....	141
9. BJOERN BORGMANN „Alles im Lot“ “Everything is plumb” .....	142
10. PETER TILL .....	143
11. PIXMAN .....	144
12. LINKS TO OTHER WEB SITES WITH PLUMB BOB ARTEFACTS .....	144
13. MEMBERS OF THE <i>PLUMB BOB FAMILY</i> .....	147
14. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT .....	148
15. REMARKS .....	148



## 1. INTRODUCTION

In all former newsletters I talked more or less about the **technical view of the plumb bobs**:

- patents,
- fabrication (Gampper, Leistner ...),
- parts of the plumb bob (top, body, tip, line, line shortener ...),
- material (lead, brass, iron, wood, ebony...)
- shape, (plumb bobs of the world, the relatives of the plumb bob ...)
- catalogues, books, newspapers ...
- use in measuring instruments (inclinometer, A-level ...)
- types in the different countries (England, USA, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Spain, Roman, Egypt, China, the Netherlands ....)
- use (mason, surveyor, borehole, golf, dams, architect ...)
- displaying (museum, vitrine, showroom, exhibition, boxes ...)
- , use etc.

This time I am answering a question of one of the readers of this NEWSLETTER: *“Could you please write something about the artists, who use plumb bobs in their artworks?”*

To avoid problems with the copyright by publishing photos of these artworks, I asked some of the artists to give me the permission to use the photos here and on my web site and also to explain why they especially used PLUMB BOBS in their artworks.

This was a very nice and interesting change of emails with the artists, who were very cooperative. Thanks to all helpers who sent me information.

For some of the pictures shown by companies I bought the copyright for a very low price to avoid complication after publishing it on my web site.

At the end of this newsletter you will also find a chapter with LINKS to other web sites with artworks related to plumb bobs. With these artists I had no contact for different reasons. Some parts of this newsletter are copied from the www, but with the references. There you can read more details about it if you want.

I hope you will enjoy this other point of view and use of the plumb bob.

**IF YOU – THE READER – KNOW OF ANY OTHER ARTIST, ARTWORK OR PICTURE WITH PLUMB BOBS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.**

**REMARK:** Please use the LINKS in this newsletter to visit the web sites of the artists.

## 2. ANTONIA LOW - per gravitation

Exactly two years ago Antonia Low – born in Liverpool (UK), who now lives and works in BERLIN, Germany – asked me:

“Hello,

For an exhibition in a gallery in Berlin I am searching some plumb bobs. I am an artist and plan a sculpture, where plumb bobs are hanging from the ceiling.

Do you have some nice plumb bobs for me? Antonia”

Sure I could help her. I found some huge plumb bobs for this reason turned by a friend, big enough to recognize them from a distance of 5 meters.

On [www.antonialow.com](http://www.antonialow.com) you will find more information about her other works.



### **PER GRAVITATION, 2010**

Galerie Morgen, Berlin

Material: light tracks, plumb bobs, thread, spot lights

Measures: 4.10 x 8 x 6 m

Light tracks are partly screwed off the ceiling and lean down into the space. Hanging plumb bobs mark the particular position of the former outer screw holes in each of the hanging light tracks.

### 3. RICK ALEXANDER - dragonflies

Rick Alexander

URL: [thetalkingman.net](http://thetalkingman.net)

In "Plumb Bobs and Dragonflies", the use of plumb bobs was primarily a **visual decision**. There is however, some consideration to be given to **attaching wings to something that requires absolute stillness** for effective use. The contradiction was studied and intentional. However, it is best taken by the viewer as whimsical and not as some sort of profound statement.



PLUMB BOB DRAGONFLIES

- **dimensions**
  - 24"w x 14"h x 7"d
- **materials**
  - medium density fiberboard
  - plumb bobs
  - printed transparencies & acetate sheeting
  - wooden balls
  - clear plastic faceted beads
  - stainless steel welding rods & aluminum tubing
  - steel hardware cloth
  - decorative paper / plain white paper

I asked him to tell us something about his artworks, especially WHY he used PLUMB BOBS. Here comes his answer:

"Wolf,  
Thank you for your interest in my work. Please feel free to refer to or use the website images of "Plumb Bobs and Dragonflies" as you see fit. ... I no longer have the piece. It is in a private collection and is not available for additional photographs.

I have one other work that uses plumb bobs

[http://thetalkingman.net/self\\_portrait/index.html](http://thetalkingman.net/self_portrait/index.html). ....

--rick"

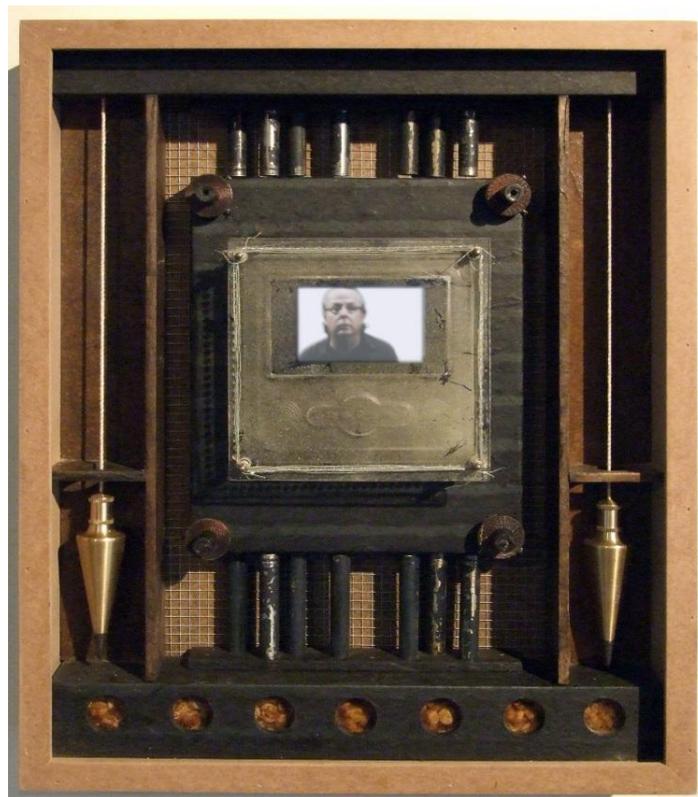
In "Self Portrait", the **plumb bobs** are those things which **keep me grounded in a positive sense** but are less playful and inventive as a negative. My work comes to me through

grinding my way from point A to point B rather than through some sort of inspired moment of clarity or reckoning. The process is more workmanlike than emotional. That gets in the way a good bit from time to time.

In "Self Portrait", the **plumb bobs are the weights that slow and complicate my personal creative process**.

I would think that's more than a small reason why, in "Plumb Bobs & Dragonflies", I have attempted to give them wings.

--rick"



SELF PORTRAIT

#### 4. JOHN WITTERSHEIM

As I already mentioned in other newsletters, JOHN D. WITTERSHEIM, Professor of Art Sienna Heights University produces since many years artworks with plumb bobs (or plumb bobs as artworks).

<http://www.sienaheights.edu/PreviewNewsAcademics/tabid/74/NewsArticleID/1633/MajorID/ART/Default.aspx>



Nearly 50 of his artworks you will find on my web site  
<http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info/58143.html>

## 5. TED METZ



### A BIO OF TED METZ on

<http://www.montevallo.edu/art/tedmetz.shtm>

Born in Ohio, Ted Metz received his BFA from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia and the MFA in sculpture from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. He joined the faculty at the University of Montevallo in 1973 where he continues to teach. During his tenure at the University, Ted has received many teaching awards including: University Scholar, Distinguished Teacher of the Year, Outstanding Commitment to Teaching, and Alabama Professor of the Year, a national award presented by the Carnegie Foundation.

Creatively, Metz has been successful in exhibiting his sculpture in more than 100 exhibitions, including those in Venice and Cortona, Italy, and the National Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. He has been recognized and has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and has been awarded the Visual Arts Fellowship from the State of Alabama. He continues to be a productive sculptor producing smaller indoor works while also pursuing opportunities for large public commissioned work. Metz's public sculptures include "Becoming" for the University of Montevallo, "Diagnostic Image"

[plumbbobwolf@t-online.de](mailto:plumbbobwolf@t-online.de)

for the Health South Corporation, "Strata" for the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and "Becoming" for the City of Hoover, Alabama.

<http://www.shelbycomagazine.com/2012/02/artist-spotlight-ted-metz/>

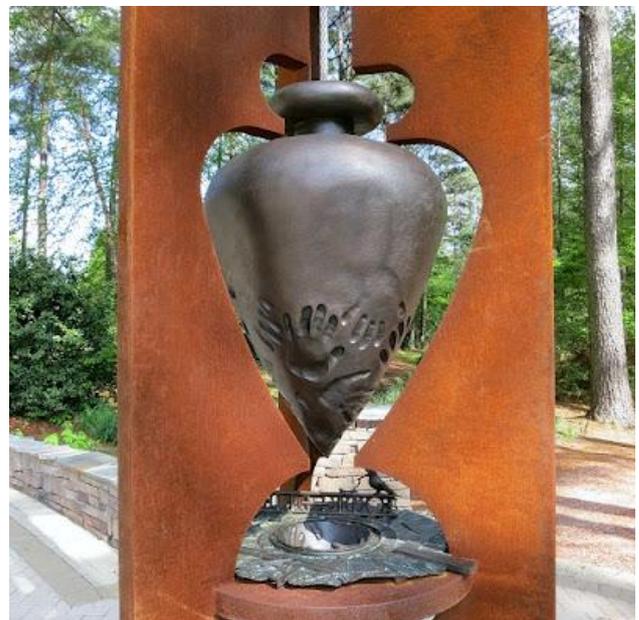
Artist Spotlight: Ted Metz

by [Laurie A. Alfano](#)



... "I started thinking how the plumb bob is one of the simplest of tools, maybe even the oldest, yet is exceptionally accurate. It is nothing more than a weighted object on a string that creates perfect plumb," he explained, adding; "Surveyors today use them to mark corners and to set up transits."

Metz's design, entitled *The Nature of Building*, suspends a 3-foot by 2-foot bronze plumb bob, which pivots and rotates, on a steel cord from a deceptively simple looking sixteen-foot, three-panel steel tower, fabricated from 6,000 pounds of steel. **Impressed into the plumb bob are hand prints**, unidentified, belonging to movers and shakers of the civic community—the mayor of Hoover, Gary Ivey; director of Aldridge Gardens, Rip Weaver; and Eddie and Kay Aldridge—making a permanent record of hands who made the sculpture possible. ...  
MORE YOU CAN READ ON THE WEB SITE OF THE SELBYCO MAGAZINE



## 6. HANS-PETER LUEBKE

<http://www.hans-peter-luebke.de/>



1960 born in Windhoek, Namibia  
1980 baccaureate Butzbach, Hesse, Germany  
1981-1982 Peace service in Israel  
1987-1992 Study for special pedagogy in Heidelberg  
since 2010 art teacher for hearing impaired.

Focus of his artistic work are engravings and objects.

The latter, formed from the flexible materials paper and cardboard effect, in their appearance voluminous and heavy. By the treatment with asphalt paint which is normally used to cover etching plates, they get the idea of metal or wood. This contradiction between



Ateliers im Alten Schlachthof, Sigmaringen, Germany

### **PLUMB BOB**

Diameter: 140 cm,

Hight: 180 cm

Material: cardboard, handmade paper (Büttenpapier), wood glue, bitumen (asphalt)

Sold to the city of Sigmaringen, Germany.



## 7. CRAIG KOSAK

<http://www.southwestart.com/featured/kosak-c-mar2012>

*Greetings Wolfgang.*

*Thank you for your message and for your interest in my work. You are welcome to feature it in your newsletter and you can find additional images on my web site at [www.craigkosak.com](http://www.craigkosak.com)*

*Thank you.  
Craig*



### Craig Kosak | Following Raven

*By Rosemary Carstens*

Merlin, oil, 40 x 26.

It all began on a day hike near Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park. Craig Kosak was ambling along a trail in the sunshine, soaking up the park's dramatic natural beauty, when two ravens joined him.



About Craig Kosak

<http://www.craigkosak.com/index.html>

### Artist's Statement

"Inspired by the wildlife and landscapes I encounter while travelling I return to my studio with insights about the natural world and about the human condition," says artist Craig Kosak. "Rather than faithfully documenting the flora and fauna, I strive to capture the feeling and emotions these trips provide. Each trip consists of both a journey through the outer world, and an inner journey of self discovery. These paintings are about both worlds and how they relate.

"Richly textured and developed using many layers of alternately opaque and translucent paint, strong graphic composition and bold colors combine to set the stage for realistically rendered animals, objects and landscapes. The subjects are integrated with abstract elements and expressive brushwork representative of the inner emotive world. I continue working until balance between both worlds is achieved and the painting comes alive.

"Stylistically, my work is grounded in realism, inspired primarily by the iconic images of painter N.C. Wyeth. I am, of course, painting about today's world and the modern paint handling of contemporary artists John Nieto and Nathan Oliveira have had significant influence in this regard."





Darting overhead from tree to tree, they squawked, dropped pinecones on him, and aggressively demanded his attention. “They were basically saying, ‘Look at us! We’re trying to tell you something!’” he says. That encounter provided the first spark of inspiration for the direction Kosak’s artwork would take. Later, while at Yellowstone National Park, he attended a ranger presentation about myth and legend that ignited the concept to full blaze. The artist realized that mythology and legends help us understand ourselves, see how we fit into the universe at large, and, importantly, how we bond with other living creatures who share our planet.

Kosak’s paintings feature wildlife he has connected with on his travels, primarily ravens, bison, wolves, and horses. “Bison found me in Yellowstone,” he says, “wolves in the California Sequoias, and horses in the hills of New Mexico.”

**THE RAVENS ARE A SERIE OF 4 WORKS**

*(see figures right)*

The first agreement

The second agreement

The third agreement

The fourth agreement



## 8. LARRY KIRKLAND DENVER CITY CENTER,

<http://www.larrykirkland.com/wellington-e-webb-building.html>

The Studio of Larry Kirkland  
5721 Utah Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20015

### Denver Civic Center, Denver, Colorado



Artist, **Larry Kirkland**, was hired to create artworks that inform and mark this special location in the building. Working with the concept that this building would now mark the very center of City activities, he started with the image of the “plumb bob.” A **plumb bob** is the very first tool that is used in the building process. A surveyor uses a **plumb bob** to locate a reference point that is used to lay out an entire building project. A **plumb bob** is also used to find if something is “plumb” or “True” meaning straight up and down. This concept informed the entire creative process for his project.

On the corner of 14th and Colfax you will find two Carrara marble heads that come together in the middle to expose a **gold plumb bob**. These Janus heads look to the future and to the past and hope to be centered on truth and wisdom. They physically sit on an array of visual symbols, sandblasted into the granite plaza, that describe



attributes of the location both locally and how the location relates to the rest of the world.

Entering the building past these artworks brings you into the grand atrium of the building. Past security you will find yourself standing on a map of the Civic Center Plaza with the new Webb Building paced among its new cultural partner buildings. The map also shows the Denver “grid shift” reminding us of the growth of the City and its struggle to gain autonomy from the now abandoned concept of the City of Auraria.

Looking up from this map, you find yourself under **the giant plumb bob** and surveyor’s target. The Plumb bob is 20 feet tall and made out of gold leafed rings.

[The JANUS HEAD monument is also known as “PLUMB BOB BRAIN”.]



9. **BJOERN BORGMANN** „Alles im Lot“ “Everything is plumb”

**Björn Borgmann** is an artist from Wuppertal, Germany. More about his vita you can read on:

<http://www.bjoernborgmann.com/vita/>

**Vita**

1966 born in Wuppertal, Germany

1986 – 1988 studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Düsseldorf, Germany under Tony Cragg

1988 – 1989 Training to color lithography in Düsseldorf

Since 1989 own atelier in Wuppertal

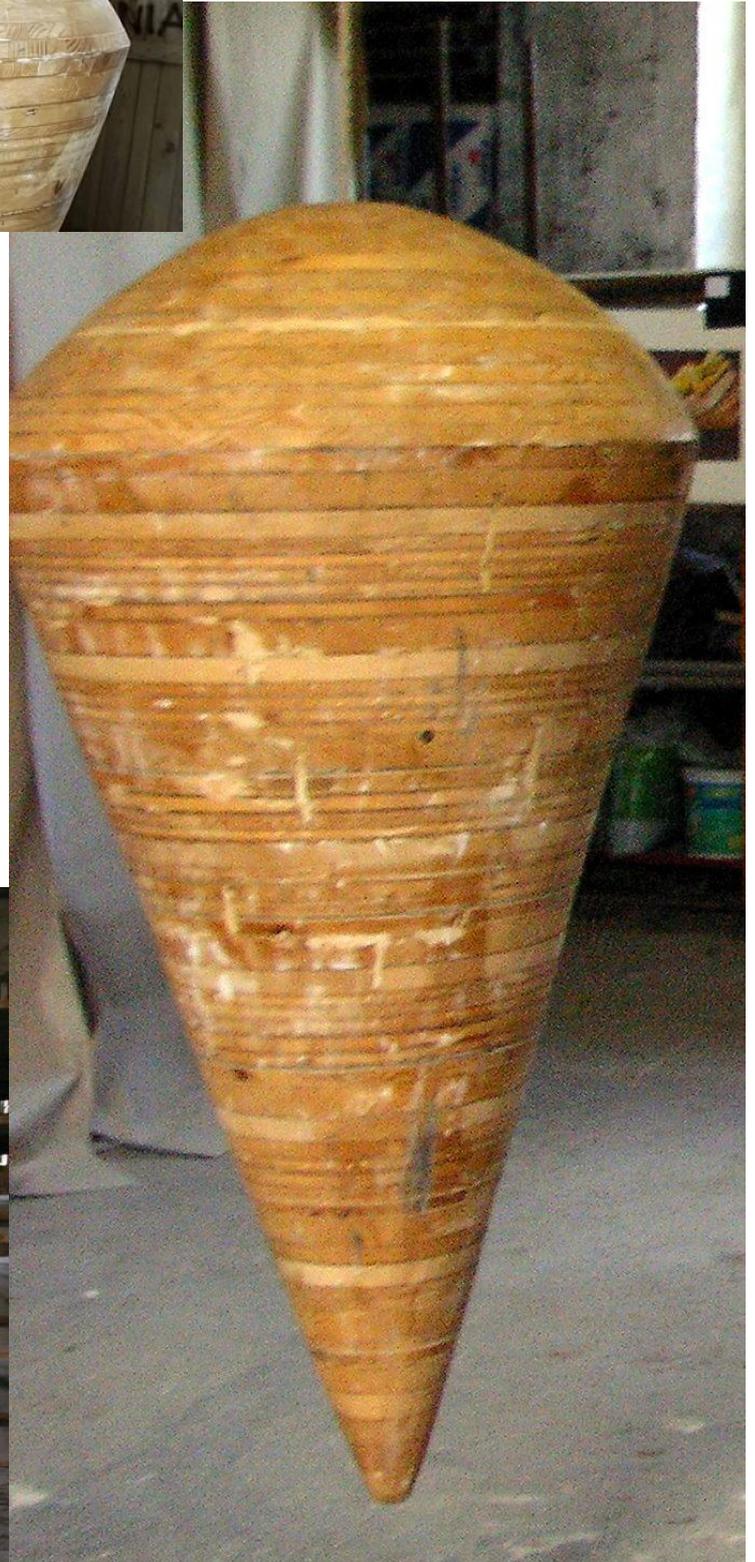


Björn Borgmann with his installation „Alles im Lot“ (Everything is plumb) in the old forge in Oetelshofen, Germany

5 feet high, made from old table tops and cabinet plates

Now the GIANT PLUMMET is displayed in the limestone quarry Oetelshofen in Wuppertal, Germany from where I also got the image below. Thank you.

<http://www.oetelshofen.de/>



## 10.PETER TILL

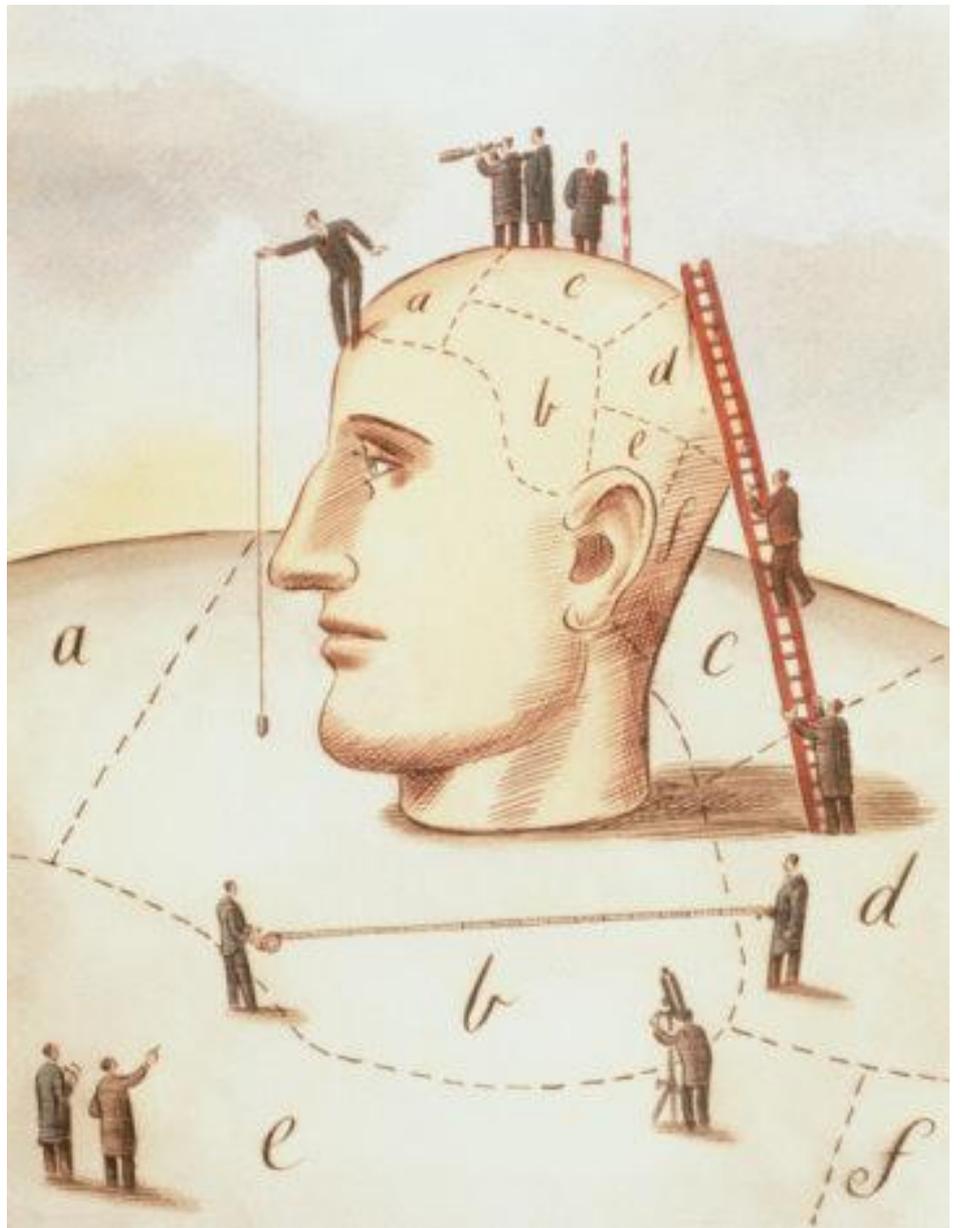
<http://www.gettyimages.de/detail/illustration/men-measuring-head-grafiken/10094820>

TITLE:  
MEN MEASURING HEAD

Peter Till

Unfortunately no information  
about the artist ☹

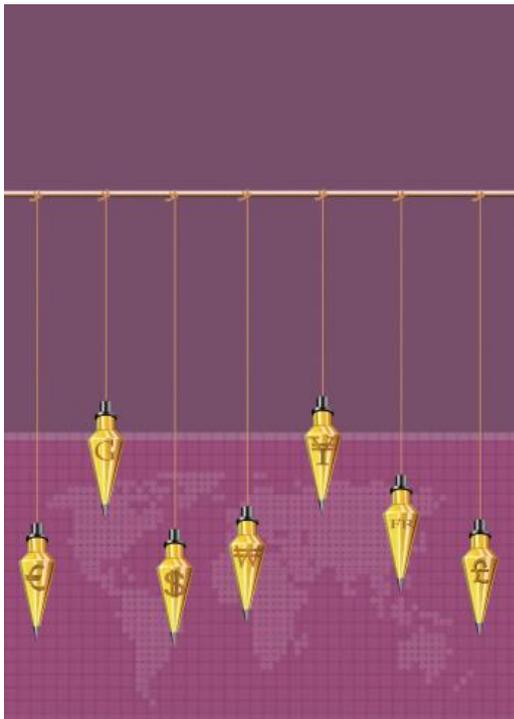
The artwork LOOKS LIKE A  
MODERN COPY of the Sphinx  
drawing by Dominique Vivant  
Denon around 1800 “View of the  
Sphinx, near Cairo, Egypt” (figure  
below)



## 11.PIXMAN

No information about this artwork and don't know if the name is correct or a synonym.

TITLE: Hanging plumb bobs with international currency.



## PAMELA HAMILTON

Unfortunately I could not get contact to the artist Pamela Hamilton. So I can't tell you much about this picture.

The artwork was made in 2005.



[plumbbobwolf@t-online.de](mailto:plumbbobwolf@t-online.de)

## 12.LINKS TO OTHER WEB SITES WITH PLUMB BOB ARTEFACTS

From the following artworks I could not put in a photo, because I had no contact to the artist for different reasons and could not get the okay for the publication. ☹ Click on the link to visit the site.

1)

Found on:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/seeminglee/3909016366/>

Untitled, 2009, by Type A, Chelsea Art Galleries Openings / 20090910.10D.53384.P1.SQ.BW / SML (NO PICTURE HERE: copyrighted)

### Plumb-bobs and thread

Variable dimensions, site specific

**Remark WR:** the 2000 used plumb bobs are common six sided (can't roll) steel plumb bobs like this one:



*“Goff + Rosenthal is pleased to present an exhibition of new works entitled Ruled by the New York-based artist duo Type A. Type A is made up of Adam Ames and Andrew Bordwin. This is their first exhibition in New York City since 2004.*

*The entire space in the front gallery is taken over by a single installation consisting of approximately 2000 plumb bobs—a reference tool used for millennia by surveyors, masons and builders that indicates a perfect vertical line pointing to the center of the earth. The objects themselves are pointed, sharp, and made of solid metal, both phallic and weapon-like. However, when they are installed, these objects have a slight and fragile simplicity that is uncharacteristic of their singular purpose as a reference tool. For the artists, they “determine the viewer’s path and present a staccato of lines that is both lyrical and dictatorial.” They are as much a source of anxiety as beauty.” Used as a drawing device, the plumb bob becomes a simple pendulum that can illustrate the direction and, to a certain extent, the velocity with which the bobs were released. The character of the line shows a relationship between the plumb bob’s/pendulum’s displacement and its tendency towards equilibrium, as well as the irregularities that arise when the simple motion meets interference. In essence, each drawing shows the relationship of the variables that were in effect among the pen, paper and individual throw of each member of Type A as he released the plumb bob.”*

2) Found on:

<http://lauradenhertog.com/blog/34167/plumb-bob-an-ancient-tool-to-symbolize-mans-ingenuity>

Laura den Hertog: Rosemere, Quebec, Canada 450-437-3584

### Plum Bob, oil on canvas, 10 x 14 (SOLD)

She wrote: "A Plumb Bob is a weight that is suspended from a string or plumb-line. It's a tool that has been used since ancient times and is still used today. Without this little tool, the pyramids of Egypt would not have stood the test of time, the high spires of the world's great cathedrals might have been crooked.

The line created by a plumb bob gives us a perfectly vertical line and so builders all over the world can be sure that what they create is straight and vertical. Land surveyors also use this tool and it has long been used by artists to find the center of gravity when drawing a figure.

That's a pretty illustrious history for such a simple tool. So let's hear it for plumb bobs in the toolboxes and art kits of people all over the world.

Cheers,

Laura"

3) Found on

[http://casagaliano.com/plumb\\_bob](http://casagaliano.com/plumb_bob)

There you find more pictures from the artists and their work!

Location: Casa Galiano

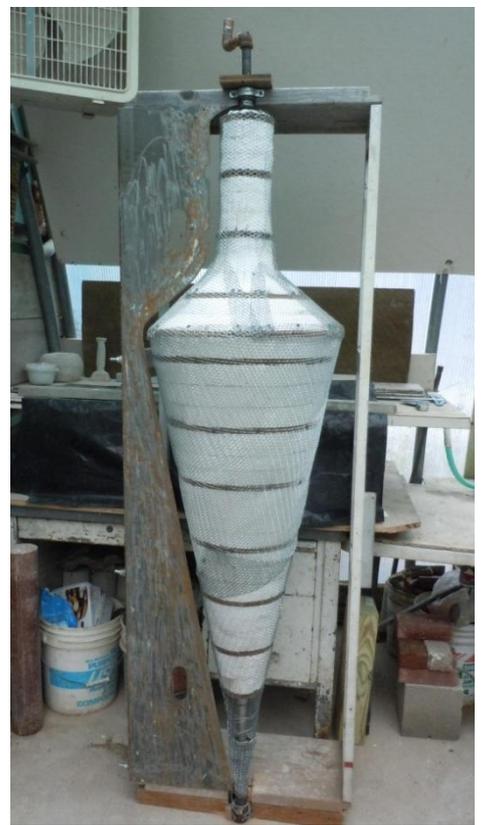
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

At over 6 feet high and almost 2 feet across this sculpture of a plumb bob hangs from its 16 foot high steel frame in the sculpture garden. It is made of white portland cement and marble dust and weighs in at over 200lbs. The cement was slowly applied in separate coats over a wire

lathe framework which turned against a steel template until it achieved the designed profile. The final coat was smoothed and a clear sealer was applied.

Concrete footings were poured in the garden and steel sleeves were set 24" deep. The steel framework was assembled and set into the foundation sleeves. The plumb bob was then hung on the eye bolt with a galvanized steel cable and hook.

It seems to float, gently spinning when a breeze comes by and always remains at true vertical.



PLUMB BOB ( FILO A PIOMBO ) ITALIAN

4)  
ALAN COUNIHAN

<http://www.alancounihan.net/elemental-exhibition-2011-2/>

Ground of Being, Kilkenny Black Limestone,  
brass plumb bob.2010

The black limestone, (more famously, if erroneously, known as Kilkenny Marble), used for these series of works offered the possibility of bringing its surfaces to a highly reflective polish. In the work, Ground of Being, this provided an opportunity to explore an inner space within the stone. When viewed through this inner space, **the plumb bob, instrument of certainty**, is broken into fractals by reflection, and certainty itself into partial truths.

5)

**Kelly Connole**

Carleton College  
One North College Street  
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

Exhibit Oct. 2009 Entitled “**Plumb Bobs** and Other Curiosities: Recent Work,”

<http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/gallery/inbetween/kelly/>

... *I understand my surroundings and express my engagement with the world through imagery. Memories, personal interactions, and elements of the natural world inform my desire to create narrative pieces. Clay's tactile temperament is an ideal vehicle for me to connect to the earth beneath my feet and the materials in my hands as ideas take shape in my studio. I investigate relationships within environments: natural and constructed, human and animal, tangible and fleeting.*



*Rabbits and other animals are metaphors for human beings, exposing vulnerabilities and tendencies through the gesture of ears, hands and bodies. I am fascinated by our relationship with nature and other creatures. As humans, we love to go into nature—forgetting that we are indeed part of the package. We choose which plants and animals are pests and those whom we cherish—endowing them with human attributes. Our interactions with wild things are filled with contradictory emotions of fear, delight, and our desire to personify all that we encounter.*



IN PURSUITE

**REMARK:**

MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN FIND IN WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2008-02 [\*\*PLUMB BOBS ON STAMPS, COINS AND AS MONUMENTS\*\*](#)

On page DOWNLOAD PUBLICATIONS, direct link:

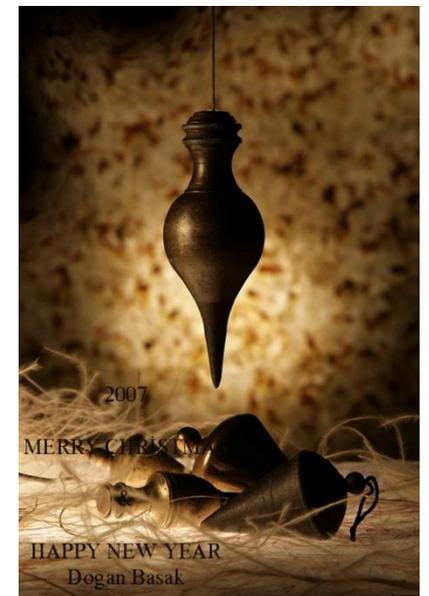
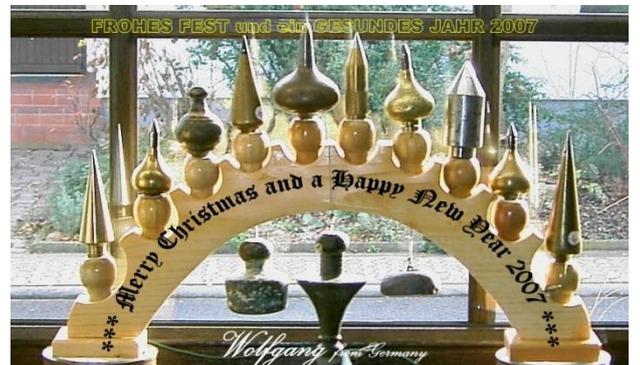
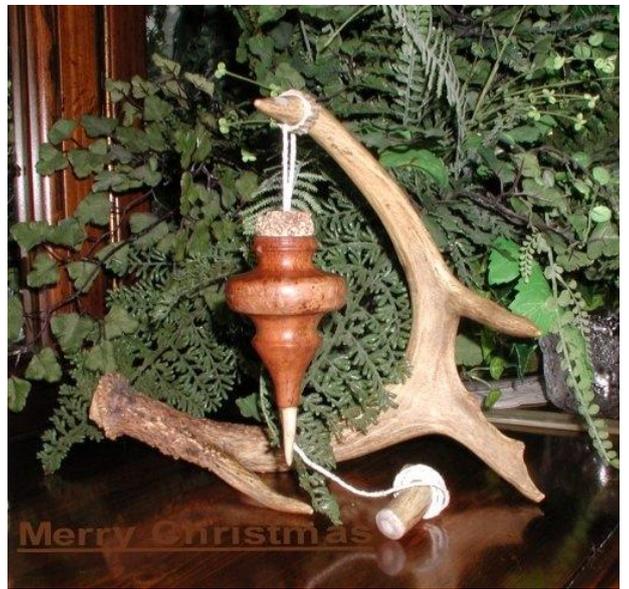
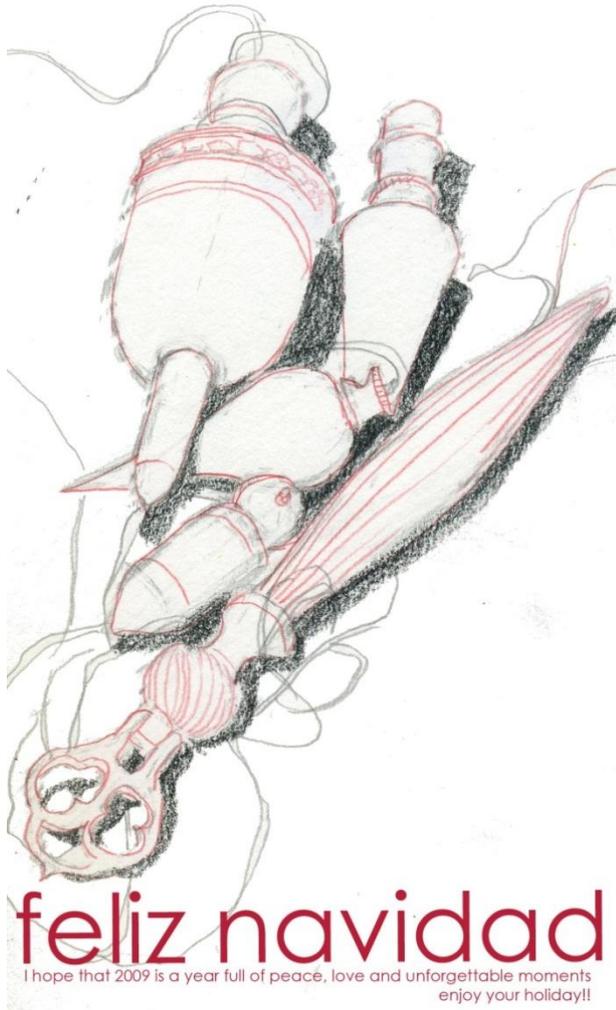
<http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info/41328.html>

If YOU find an interesting artwork with plumb bobs, please let me know. Thank you.

### 13. MEMBERS OF THE *PLUMB BOB* FAMILY

Perhaps you remember the December issues of this newsletter. Some of the members of the “*plumb bob family*” are also artists. They created very unique X-MAS-CARDS every year. More of these works you can see on my web site on page X-MAS / WEIHNACHTEN with the direct link <http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info/182301.html>

#### When I get YOUR X-MAS-CARD?



## 14.SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

CHRISTMAS TIME is coming soon!

[http://www.chocolatemoldsmuseum.com/home\\_en.htm](http://www.chocolatemoldsmuseum.com/home_en.htm)

THE CHOCOLATE MOULDS MUSEUM,  
LEMGO, GERMANY offers



They look like an Australian Carter Tools plumb bob. *See figure right.*

Welcome to the website of the first chocolate moulds museum. Situated in the scenic surroundings near the Teutoburger forest, the museum is housed in the restored barn of a cottage of 1794 – 1864.



Visitors and school groups are invited to visit the museum only after previous notification. You have the chance to see rare and unique antique chocolate moulds from the last centuries made by the most famous chocolate moulds manufacturers at the time, of which some still exist today. A film showing the chocolate origins and processing as well as practical tests with chocolate will make your visit complete.

...

The Museum's website offers a range of products as well as chocolate moulds and accessories not only for confectioners but also for the domestic use.

## 15.REMARKS

This is an article of the monthly published WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS that is sent on demand as PDF-file attachment by email. FREE.

You can see all former publications on the website

[www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info) on page "download publications".

Remarks and contact by email: [plumbbobwolf@t-online.de](mailto:plumbbobwolf@t-online.de)

Enjoy it

Wolf

