

ARTISTRY IN STONE

CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE BY RHYS GOWER

A COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL SCULPTURES



RHYS GOWER

MASTER STONEMASON • SCULPTOR

Creating timeless sculpture from natural stone,
inspired by history, craftsmanship and the world around us.

WWW.ARTISTRYINSTONE.CO.UK

ABOUT THE ARTIST

RHYS GOWER

MASTER STONEMASON & SCULPTOR

Born and raised on the Isle of Portland, Dorset, Rhys Gower grew up surrounded by some of Britain's most famous limestone quarries. From an early age he was immersed in the world of stone, watching skilled quarrymen and stonemasons shape a landscape that has supplied iconic buildings across the world for centuries. Those early experiences gave him an instinctive understanding of stone—its grain, its character, its strengths and imperfections—long before he ever picked up a chisel professionally.

Determined to master every aspect of the craft, Rhys trained across the full breadth of traditional stonemasonry. Rather than specialising in one area, he deliberately sought out experienced craftsmen from different disciplines, learning quarrying, banker masonry, restoration, dry stone walling and fine sculpture. This broad foundation has given him a rare understanding of both the technical precision and artistic possibilities of working in stone.

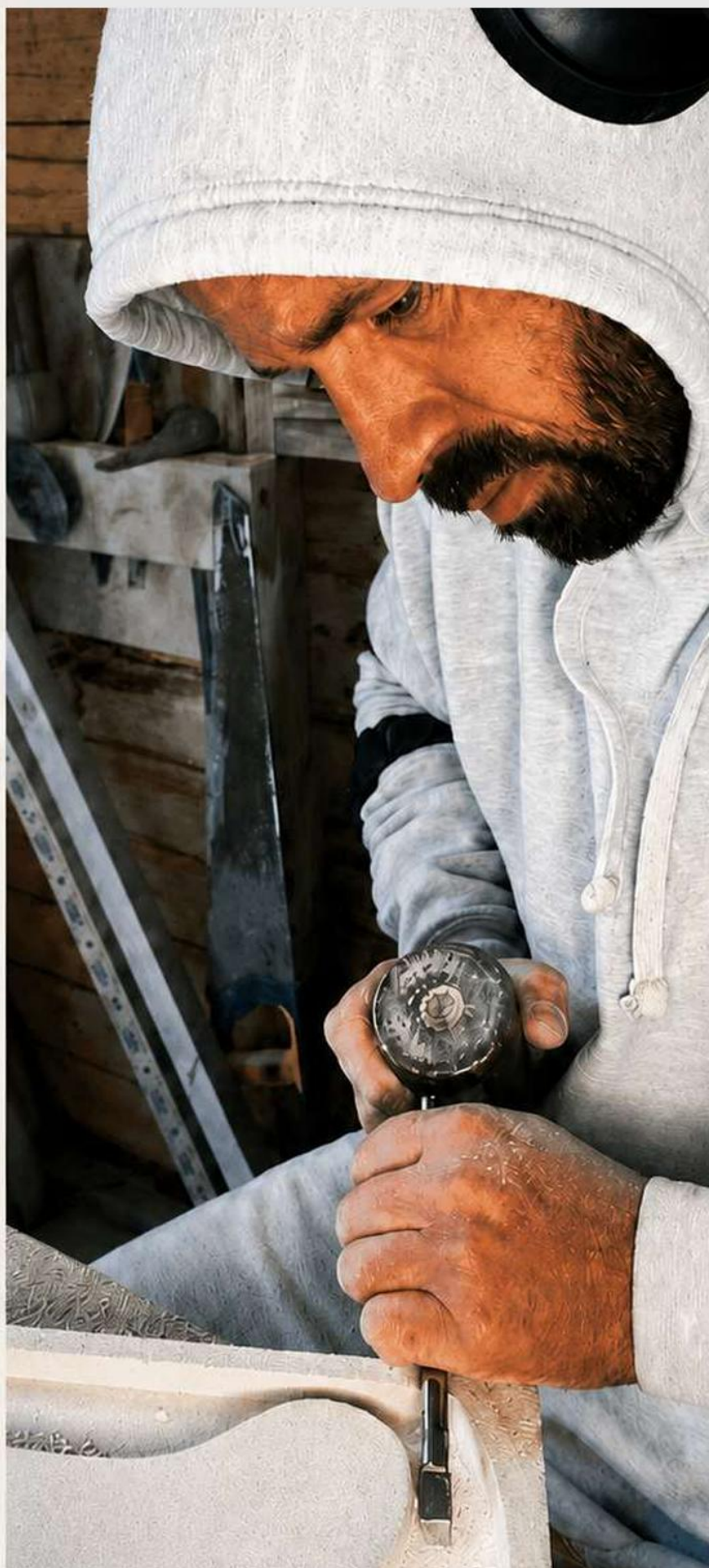
Today, Rhys works under the name Artistry in Stone, creating one-of-a-kind sculptures entirely by hand. Every piece begins with the natural character of the stone itself, allowing its textures, markings and history to influence the final design. His work often combines traditional craftsmanship with unexpected subjects, transforming familiar objects and historical themes into timeless sculptures that celebrate both heritage and imagination.

Alongside his commissioned and exhibition work, Rhys has developed a particular interest in the techniques of the ancient stonemasons. He has hand-made and used flint chisels, bow drills and abrasive lapping tools to recreate methods believed to have been used thousands of years ago. By testing these techniques himself, he is undertaking an ongoing study that re-examines ancient stonework and so-called "mystery" sites from the perspective of someone who works stone every day.

For Rhys, sculpture is more than creating beautiful objects. It is about preserving traditional craftsmanship, understanding the remarkable capabilities of stone, and proving that skills passed down through generations still have the power to inspire today. Every sculpture is individually hand carved, ensuring no two pieces are ever the same, and each carries the marks of the craftsman's hand along with the story of the stone from which it was created.



ARTISTRY IN STONE
TRADITION. CRAFT. INSPIRATION.



THE STORY BEHIND THE STONE

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT STONE DESERVES TO BE MORE THAN A BUILDING MATERIAL.

Every block has its own character, texture and history waiting to be revealed.

I enjoy taking everyday objects, moments from history and subjects inspired by nature and recreating them in stone, encouraging people to look twice at something they thought they already knew.

My work combines traditional hand carving with modern artistic ideas. Every piece is carved individually, without computer-controlled machinery, meaning no two sculptures are ever exactly the same.

I hope each sculpture encourages people to slow down, appreciate craftsmanship and enjoy the beauty that can be created from one of nature's oldest materials.

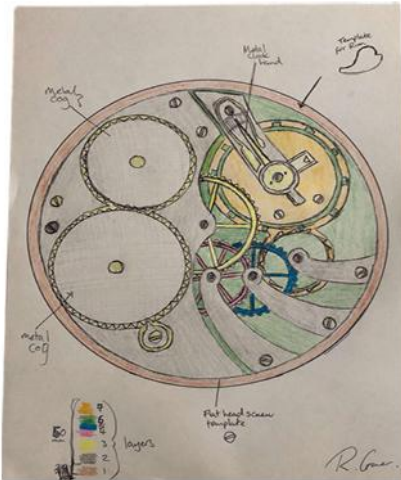


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*Stone connects us to our past.
Through every tool mark and carving,
it carries the skill of those who came before us.
My aim is to continue that tradition,
creating something that will still be admired
long after we're gone.*

— RHYS GOWER

FROM SKETCH TO STONE



1. DRAWING

Ideas begin on paper and are carefully translated onto stone.



2. MARKING OUT

Precise marking ensures accuracy and respect for the design.



3. ROUGH CARVING

The excess is removed and the form begins to emerge.



4. DETAIL CARVING

Careful hand carving brings out the finer details and character.



5. SANDING

Each surface is refined by hand, creating a smooth, tactile finish.



6. FINISHED SCULPTURE

The final piece, unique and carved entirely by hand.

Every sculpture begins with an idea and is brought to life entirely by hand using traditional stone carving techniques.

POCKETWATCH

THE STORY

Every great craftsman understands the value of time.

A pocketwatch was once an essential part of working life. Whether carried by a quarryman, engineer, stonemason or tradesman, it marked the beginning of the working day, the end of a shift and the passing of skills from one generation to the next.

Hand carved from Bath Stone, this sculpture brings together traditional materials with carefully crafted components to reflect both the precision of engineering and the enduring nature of craftsmanship.

Every stage of the carving was completed by hand, gradually revealing the movement beneath the surface before the individual components were introduced. The finished piece celebrates not only the beauty of a pocketwatch, but the people who relied upon one throughout their working lives.

For Rhys, the Pocketwatch is a reminder that time is one of the most valuable things we have, and that the skills we leave behind can outlast us for generations.

MATERIALS

Bath Stone & Mixed Media

DIMENSIONS

60 x 60 x 8 cm



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*Stone has a way of preserving history.
Every mark tells a story, and every sculpture
is my way of keeping those stories alive.*

”

WORK IN PROGRESS



1. THE DESIGN



2. FIRST CUTS



3. FORM TAKING SHAPE



4. CARVED STONE



5. FITTING THE GEARS



6. ADDING THE FRAME



7. THE FINISHED PIECE

VIOLIN

THE STORY

For centuries, the violin has spoken to the soul.

From the hands of master luthiers to the fingertips of musicians, it has carried melody through every moment of human experience – joy and sorrow, celebration and reflection. More than an instrument, it is a voice that connects us all.

Hand carved from Bath Stone, this sculpture celebrates the artistry of both the musician and the craftsman, bringing together traditional craftsmanship and carefully crafted details to honour an instrument whose beauty has endured for generations.

Every stage of the carving was completed by hand, gradually revealing the elegant curves and delicate contours before the individual components were introduced. The finished piece pays tribute not only to the violin's timeless form, but to the passion and dedication of those who create and play music.

For Rhys, the Violin is a celebration of creativity, craftsmanship and the power of music to inspire, connect and leave a lasting legacy.

MATERIALS

Bath Stone & Mixed Media

DIMENSIONS

50 x 25 x 10 cm



“ Music and stone may seem worlds apart, but both are shaped by patience, precision and passion. Each note, each chisel mark, leaves something that can be felt long after it is made. ”

WORK IN PROGRESS



1. THE DESIGN



2. FIRST CUTS



3. SHAPING THE FORM



4. REFINING THE CURVES



5. CARVING THE DETAILS



6. THE FINISHED PIECE

QUARRYMEN



THE STORY

Every quarry has a story, but without the men who worked them they would simply be holes in the landscape. Quarrymen is my tribute to generations of craftsmen whose strength, skill and determination shaped the buildings, villages and cities that surround us today.

Rather than carving an entire figure, I wanted a single hand to tell the story. The grip around the reclaimed quarry pick represents the relationship between the craftsman, the tool and the stone. It's a simple image, but one that speaks about hard work, resilience and pride in a trade that has been passed from one generation to the next.

The rough quarry face has deliberately been left untouched, contrasting with the smooth carved arm that gradually emerges from the stone. I wanted it to feel as though the quarryman has always been there, waiting to be revealed from within the block.

Using an original quarry pick was important to me. Every mark on the steel reflects years of use, and by combining it with hand-carved Bath Stone the sculpture brings together two materials that have worked side by side throughout Britain's quarrying history.

For me, Quarrymen is more than a sculpture. It's a celebration of traditional craftsmanship and a reminder of the people whose hard work built so much of our heritage.

MATERIALS

Bath Stone & Reclaimed Steel

DIMENSIONS

69 x 29 x 9 cm

YEAR

2026



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The strength of the quarryman lives on in every mark, every chip and every piece of stone that continues to stand the test of time.

”

WORK IN PROGRESS



1. The Design



2. First Cuts



3. Shaping the Form



4. Refining



5. Intricate Detail

AXE & STONE



THE STORY

A celebration of the enduring partnership between hand, tool and material.

The balance of the axe, embedded in stone, speaks of purpose, tradition and the timeless relationship between industry and the earth.

Hand-carved from Bath Stone and forged steel, this sculpture honours the strength, skill and dedication of those who shape and work the world around us.

For Rhys, Axe & Stone is a tribute to craftsmanship, heritage and the unbreakable connection between human effort and natural resources.

MATERIALS

Bath Stone & Forged Steel

DIMENSIONS

34cm (W) x 26cm (D) x 50cm (H)

FINISH

Hand-carved stone with forged steel detail

YEAR

2026

RHYS GOWER

STONEMASON & SCULPTOR



“

The strength of the axe and the quiet permanence of stone speak of a bond that has shaped our world for generations.

It is a reminder of where we come from, and the craftsmanship that endures.

”



1. The Design



2. First Cuts



3. Refining the Curves



4. Carving the Details



6. The Finished Piece

SEABASS



THE STORY

Living by the coast, the sea has always been a constant source of inspiration. Seabass is my celebration of one of the most iconic fish from our waters — admired by fishermen, chefs and coastal communities alike.

I wanted to capture the sleek, powerful shape of the fish in a simple, elegant form. The smooth curves and subtle carved details reflect the seabass's natural beauty, while the stone gives it a permanence, a sense of timeless abundance.

The sliced oranges add a splash of colour and a nod to the way seabass is often prepared and enjoyed. They introduce warmth and life to the piece, contrasting with the cool, calm stone and bringing a feeling of a meal shared with friends and family.

For me, Seabass is about more than just the fish. It's about the coast, the catch, and the simple pleasures of good food and good company. It's a tribute to the sea's generosity and to the tradition of bringing the best of nature to the table.

MATERIALS

Bath Stone

DIMENSIONS

50 x 37 x 10 cm

FINISH

Smooth carved stone

YEAR

2026



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*The sea gives so much, and the seabass is one of its finest gifts.
I carve it in stone to honour the coast, the catch
and the simple joy of sharing good food.*

”



WORK IN PROGRESS



1.The Stone

2. Roughing out the
Shape

3. Defining the Form

4. Carving the Details

5. The Finished Piece

IRON & BOARD

Artist's Comment

Iron & Board explores the beauty that can be found in the most ordinary of objects. Inspired by the traditional household iron and ironing board, the sculpture transforms familiar domestic tools into a permanent work of art through the use of Bath stone, reclaimed metal and steel.

One of the most enjoyable challenges was recreating the fabric ironing board cover in stone. Every crease, fold and contour was carefully carved by hand to give the impression of tightly stretched fabric, despite being formed entirely from solid Bath stone. The contrast between the soft appearance of the cover and the permanence of the stone is what gives the sculpture its distinctive character.

The original vintage iron provides a direct connection to the past, celebrating craftsmanship, hard work and the everyday objects that quietly formed part of family life for generations. By combining traditional stone carving techniques with reclaimed materials, the sculpture encourages viewers to pause and appreciate the beauty, history and nostalgia found within items that are so often overlooked.



Materials

- Bath Stone
- Vintage Cast Iron Iron
- Stainless Steel Threaded Rod
- Powder-Coated Steel Folding Stand

Dimensions

Height: 62 cm
Width: 50 cm
Depth: 15 cm



INDUSTRIAL COG

Artist's Comment

Industrial Cog celebrates the strength, precision and beauty found within industrial engineering. Inspired by the simple form of a mechanical gear, the sculpture transforms a functional component into a timeless piece of art through the careful hand carving of Bath stone.

Every tooth and curve has been shaped by hand, preserving the clean geometry and balance that gives the cog its distinctive mechanical character. Although inspired by industry, the piece also highlights the craftsmanship required to recreate engineered precision using traditional hand carving techniques.

By combining industrial design with natural Bath stone, the sculpture creates a contrast between engineering and artistry, celebrating both the heritage of manufacturing and the enduring beauty of handcrafted sculpture.



Materials

- Bath Stone

Dimensions

Height: 30 cm
Width: 20 cm
Depth: 15 cm

1. The Design



Drawing and planning the cog shape, ensuring the proportions, tooth spacing and balance were accurate before carving began.

2. Shaping the Form



Rough cutting and shaping the cog from solid Bath stone, establishing the overall form, depth and structure of the piece.

3. Refining the Details



Hand carving each tooth and refining the circular profile, creating precision, texture and the mechanical character of the industrial gear.

4. Finished Sculpture



Completing the sculpture and assembling within the carved frame, celebrating the strength, function and timeless beauty of industrial design.

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BATH STONE SUNDIAL

ARTIST'S COMMENT

Time has always fascinated me—not just the passing of it, but the way it connects us to the people who came before us. Long before modern clocks, sundials measured the day using nothing more than sunlight and craftsmanship, and I wanted this piece to celebrate that simple but timeless idea.

Hand carved from a single block of Bath stone, the sundial combines clean architectural lines with decorative detailing inspired by traditional stone masonry. Every surface was carefully shaped and refined by hand, from the stepped plinth and carved column to the engraved dial that forms the centrepiece of the sculpture. The bronze gnomon provides a warm contrast against the pale stone, allowing the piece to function both as a working sundial and as a sculptural focal point.

This sculpture reflects my passion for creating pieces that honour traditional craftsmanship while remaining elegant and contemporary. I enjoy producing work that rewards close inspection, where every carved detail demonstrates the beauty and versatility of natural Bath stone.

SPECIFICATIONS

Material:	Bath Stone with Bronze Gnomon
Dimensions:	45 × 30 × 72 cm
Finished:	Hand carved and hand finished



KING LEONIDAS OF SPARTA

THE STORY

Few figures in history represent courage and unwavering resolve quite like King Leonidas of Sparta. His leadership at the Battle of Thermopylae has become a lasting symbol of sacrifice, discipline and the determination to stand firm against overwhelming odds.

Hand carved from Bath Stone, this sculpture explores those qualities through clean geometric forms and subtle texture. Rather than pursuing every historical detail, the piece focuses on capturing the unmistakable silhouette of the Spartan warrior, allowing strength and character to emerge through simplicity.

Each stage of the carving gradually revealed the helmet, facial structure and flowing lines before the distinctive horsehair crest was introduced to complete the composition. Contrasting smooth finished surfaces with rough-cut stone celebrates both the refinement of sculpture and the raw nature of the material itself.

For Rhys, King Leonidas is a tribute to resilience, honour and the enduring human spirit. It celebrates the courage to face impossible challenges and reminds us that true strength is often measured not by victory, but by determination.

MATERIALS

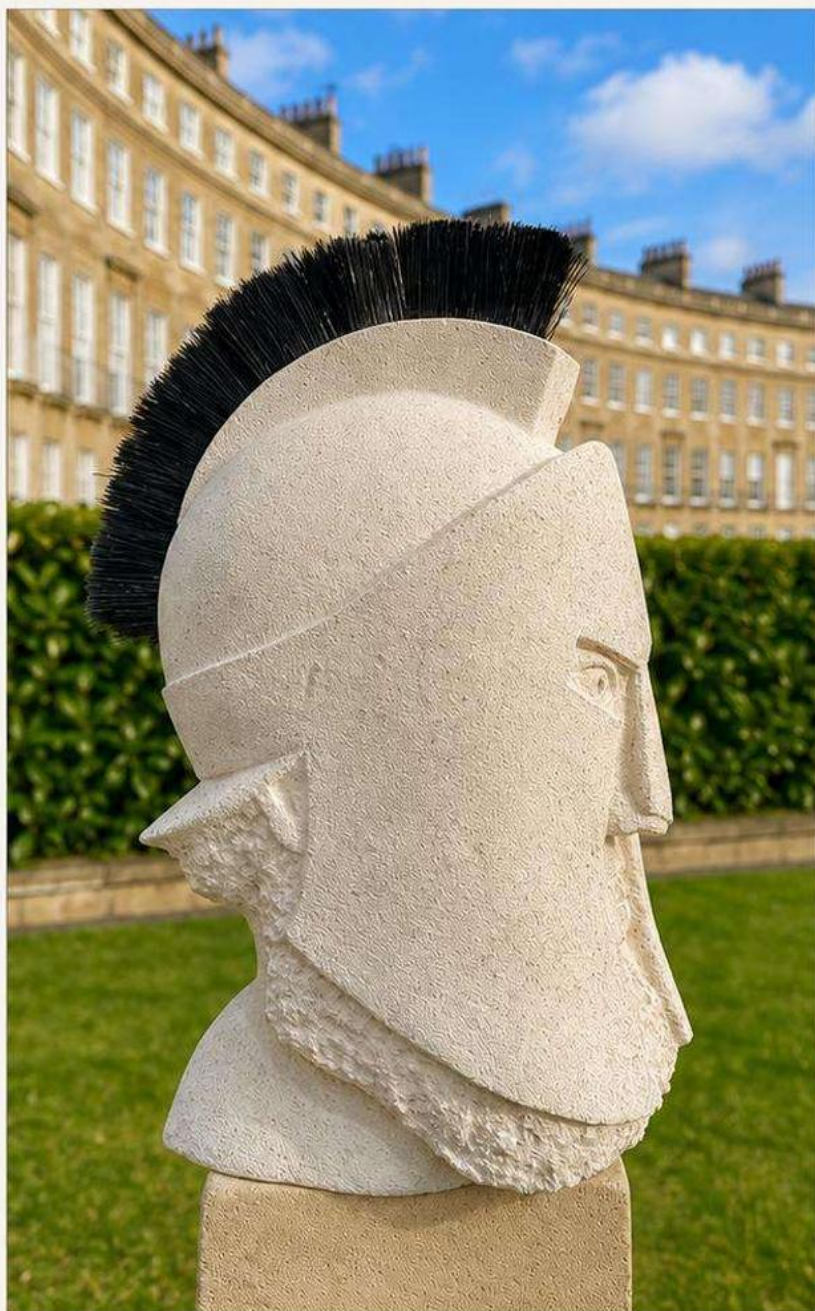
Bath Stone & Mixed Media

DIMENSIONS

14 x 16 x 28 cm

RHYS GOWER

STONEMASON & SCULPTOR



“ True strength is not found in the size of an army,
but in the courage to stand for something
greater than yourself. ”

WORK IN PROGRESS



1. INITIAL BLOCK OUT

2. ESTABLISHING THE FORM

3. DEFINING THE FEATURES

4. REFINING THE PROFILE

5. SURFACE FINISHING

6. THE FINISHED SCULPTURE

GET IN TOUCH

ENQUIRIES • COMMISSIONS • COLLECTIONS

Thank you for taking the time to explore this collection.

Whether you are interested in acquiring an original sculpture, discussing a bespoke commission, exhibiting future work or simply learning more about the creative process,

I would be delighted to hear from you.

Every sculpture begins with a conversation, and I welcome enquiries from private collectors, galleries, interior designers, heritage organisations and businesses looking for unique, hand-carved stone sculpture.

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- Bespoke Garden Sculpture

*Creating timeless sculpture by hand,
one piece of stone at a time.*

Rhys Gower



THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to explore my work.

Every sculpture in this catalogue has been created by hand using traditional stone carving techniques. My hope is that each piece not only celebrates the beauty of natural stone but also the craftsmanship, patience and stories that it represents.

Whether you are a collector, gallery, designer or simply someone who appreciates handmade art, thank you for your interest and support.

RHYS GOWER

ARTISTRY IN STONE

Contemporary Sculpture by Rhys Gower
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