

Clayton Cowart

In this demonstration we will show what is needed to take a bloom of raw Tamahagane steel and turn it into a knife. We will cover consolidation of the bloom, forging, grinding, heat treating, and finishing of this unique Japanese steel.

Clayton Cowart has been a bladesmith for over 12 years. He specializes in making ancient steel, heat treating, and tight tolerance knife making. Clayton has been teaching classes and workshops in Arizona since 2012 and teaching along the west coast since 2017. Clayton's teaching style balances science and art to cut through the myths make intimidating tasks seem simple and easy.

Stephen Yusko

I create sculpture, furniture, and vessels in my Cleveland, OH, studio using mixed material combined with forged, machined and fabricated steel. Inspired by the convergence of structure and mechanisms—the things that make the thing—I explore themes of balance, distance and concepts of home. My recent works are a forged response to the precarious nature of our relationships with the environment, the political landscape and with each other.

Jake Trogdon

Jake was introduced to metal work at an early age and was immediately fascinated and that fascination has turned into a lifelong passion. Having been lucky enough to be exposed to several skilled craftsmen, Jake developed a love for quality and refinement of work. Having worked in ornamental iron, fabrication, and serving an apprenticeship for pipeline welding. He has continuously strived to improve both his skills and the quality of his work through intentional practice and attention to detail. Teaching has allowed Jake to share his love for metalwork with others, as well as to learn and continue being a student himself.