



## ★ **Handmade: Creative Focus in the Age of Distraction**

**Gary Rogowski**

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All the happy inspiring talk about the importance of playful creativity in a healthy life makes for good copy on a greeting card, but creativity is also a deadly serious, learned process to professional painters, potters, chefs, sculptors, and other artists who work with their hands—even as it's altogether different from the creative processes used by writers, described in thousands of books over the centuries.

How interesting, then, to hear from Gary Rogowski, a man who carves, builds, and turns beautiful objects in wood. In *Handmade: Creative Focus in the Age of Distraction*, he writes of his love of tools, patience, discipline, the beauty and behavior of wood, learning to forgive his daily mistakes at the bench, why he believes in maintaining exceptionally high standards, and so much more of use to all who care deeply about craft and practice.

He is drawn to wood working because “It is as if, by doing this work, you can capture a moment, freeze it in space, give it form, and offer it life.” And, yes, it takes such a long time to create his precious things with his hands, “but the beauty of delineation, the clarity, the definition of an idea can be such fun.”

MATT SUTHERLAND (January/February 2018)

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