



Cast a Giant Shadow

The artistry of Steve Posson looms large in the two-wheel garden.



► SOMEWHERE IN THE shadow of Hearst Castle, along a quiet stretch of the California coast, artist Steve Posson can be found in his studio sketching, modeling or casting his next bronze sculpture. This is far from lightweight work, however, as Posson's interpretations of motorcycle and car designs can weigh in at upwards of 600 pounds.

Posson—a graduate of Pasadena's Art Center College of Design—trained as an automobile designer, but his career changed course 20 years ago when he saw his first bronze auto sculpture at an auto show. "I met the artist and asked him if he was making a living with his work," Posson recalls. "He said 'yes.'"

Posson's first break came from a commission by the American Motorcyclist Association's Motorcycle Hall of Fame in Ohio. *Glory Days*, a three-quarter life-size statue depicting a racer on a 1919 Indian boardtracker, adorns the museum's lobby.

"I analyze every component—the crankcase, suspension, wheels—and my wife Liselotte, who is also an artist and my concept collaborator, sculpts the people," says Posson. Employing the "lost wax" process, an ancient technique first used by the Romans and Greeks, Posson carves his original designs from wax, then encases them in a ceramic mold into which he pours molten bronze.

His pieces sell for between \$5,000 and \$50,000 and collectors of his work include Harley heir Willi G. Davidson and comedian Tim Allen. Posson jokes that his artwork's durability enhances investment potential. "Unless a building falls on them, they'll be around for over 1,000 years." —BETH HOWARD IKEN

www.possonart.com

LISELOTTE BJORCK-POSSON