**Peregrine O’Gormley**

Peregrine O’Gormley began life on the road. He was born in a green International pickup on Route 66, in front of the Canyon Gun Shop. Not surprisingly, his first name means “one who journeys”—a traveler/seeker. In addition, his namesake, the peregrine falcon, tied him from birth to the beauty and vitality of the natural world.

O’Gormley grew up on 40 acres of woods and grazing land in the mountains of central New Mexico. His stomping grounds, the hills and valleys of the watershed surrounding their home, were filled with rattlesnakes, gopher snakes, rabbits, coyotes, foxes, many raptors and small birds, and occasionally, black bear.

His father, Kent Philip Gormley, taught him to carefully observe his natural surroundings. “My father taught me to see. We’d peer carefully at a pinhead-sized flying insect, and he’d say, ‘A flying miracle! This minuscule thing, eats, breaths, poops, sees, hears, has legs—six, did you count them? Did you catch the iridescence in its wings? Does it have two pairs or one? . . . AND! AND! This tiny thing can fly!’”

In addition to a reverence for nature, his father also instilled in him a sincere concern for its well-being. O’Gormley witnesses the impact human beings are having on the planet and believes we are at a critical moment in history. This belief is central to his life and art.

He remains inspired by travel to Canada and Alaska. During early visits to the northwest coast of British Columbia, he experienced new landscapes and wildlife, learned about Indigenous origin stories, and was exposed to Northwest art and its influences. Drawn to sculpture from an early age, O’Gormley began exhibiting his work at age 14 in a Santa Fe gallery.

He received a degree in biology from the Colorado College in Colorado Springs, where he met his future wife, Laurel O’Keefe-Crow. In 2006, after their share of world travel, they moved to La Conner, Washington, in the picturesque Skagit Valley. O’Gormley built their house on property overlooking Puget Sound, where they live with their three children.

He works from his home studio, carving most of his original work from wood he collects from his immediate surroundings. Careful to avoid the use of living wood, O’Gormley prefers to work with dead down material and windfalls. His local favorites are juniper, Western red cedar, maple, and yew. He particularly enjoys working with Alaskan yellow cedar.

His artwork has been featured in numerous group shows at museums across the country, including the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin; the National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, Wyoming; and the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. He has won multiple National Sculpture Society awards, including the Pat Munson Prize for Avian Sculpture in both 2017 and 2015, and the Green-Wood Cemetery Award in 2016. In 2019, he was honored with the Southwest Art Award at the *Coors Western Art Exhibit & Sale* in Denver.

*Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine selected O’Gormley for its “Up and Coming Artists: Three to Watch” article in 2017, and he was featured in *American Art Collector* magazine for his solo exhibition in 2020 at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art.

O’Gormley continues to have many sources of inspiration, including this quote by Harold Whitman: “Don’t ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

Peregrine O’Gormley is represented by Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Smith & Vallee Gallery, Edison, Washington.

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