

## OFF THE PALETTE

### ERIC DAVID LAXMAN

You're among the artists/artisans who make their home at the Garrisonville Arts & Industrial Center, a former dye-work factory that's just turned 170 and has a definite Williamsburg feel. Do you feed off the other artists there?

"I definitely do. I have collaborated with a number of other sculptors, including James Tyler



(executive director of the GAGA Arts Center there) and Rick Johnson, who does wood sculpture. I also curated a show last year and got 90 artists to create new works ... to celebrate the anniversary and commemorate the whole place."

You're unusual in that you're both a sculptor who makes fine art and a commercial metal-

worker (as seen in this Chrysler Building-inspired door for a Sutton Place apartment).

"I do a lot of functional art - tables, chairs, backslashes."

Ever wish you could just concentrate on the art you'd like to make?

"I like the challenge of creating functional objects,

Working with clients to create new pieces has given me an opportunity I would otherwise have never had."

With clients come ground rules. And yet, it seems to me that the most creative works are those that arise out of strictures.

"No matter what you're doing as an artist, you have to create certain boundaries and make certain decisions. Once I agree to be part of a project, I enter those conditions and enjoy the collaborative process."

And certainly patronage did not hurt Michelangelo or Raphael.

"An artist always needs people to create projects. Still, it's nice to do your own work and find a balance."

— Georgette Gouveia

Read Georgette Gouveia's cultural musings at [thearts-muse.blogspot.com](http://thearts-muse.blogspot.com), a partnership with [artswebsites.org](http://artswebsites.org).



**Studio:** Garrisonville Arts & Industrial Center

**Upcoming exhibits:** "Current: A Summer Sculpture Exhibition," a group show at the Garrison Art Center and neighboring Boscobel Restoration through Oct. 11.