

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lana Michaels

programs@museumsc.org

(707) 579-1500



Museum of Sonoma County Presents an Exclusive *EARLY* Book Release and Artist Tour

MICHAEL COOPER'S **WORKMANSHIP OF RISK** May 20, 2023, 2 – 5 PM

Santa Rosa, CA – (May 1) The Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) is delighted to announce the release of Michael Cooper's **new book, *Workmanship of Risk***, at an event on May 20, 2023, from 2-5 PM. The event will include an **artist-led gallery tour from 2 – 3 pm**, followed by a **book signing and meet & greet** with the artist from 3 – 5 pm **Early release copies of the book** will be available for purchase **exclusively at MSC** starting May 15.

The release of the book coincides with the **final week of Cooper's major exhibition *Art of Risk: The Innovative Sculpture of Michael Cooper***, on view at MSC until it closes on May 28.

This event will **provide visitors with the opportunity to meet the artist** and learn about his work. All are welcome, included in museum admission.

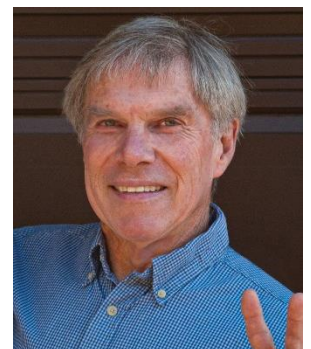
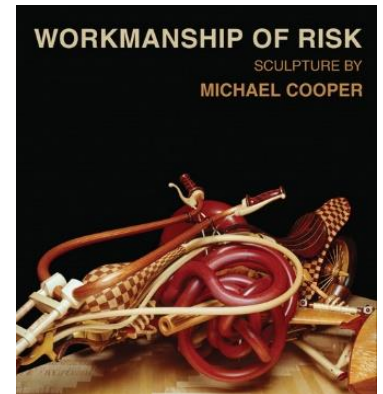
Early release copies of *Workmanship of Risk* are exclusively available at the MSC and will be available for purchase on May 20th for the MSC **members' price of \$67.50**. After May 20th the books will also be available at the museum for **\$75 for non-members**. The book will be released to the general public in September 2023.

THE ARTIST

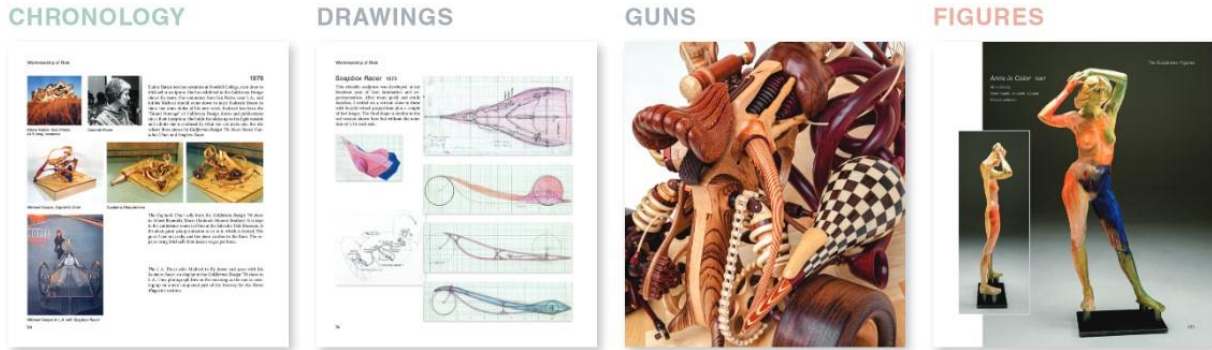
Michael Cooper creates **sculptures of such inventiveness and flawless craftsmanship**, that they challenge categorization, and exist at the intersection of fine art, craft, engineering, and custom car design. The **longtime Sebastopol resident's** work transcends convention and historical art movements and exemplifies the individualism, originality, and eccentric creativity for which Sonoma County is known. *His work is accessible to all, yet like nothing seen before.*

THE BOOK

***Workmanship of Risk* is a lavishly illustrated retrospective showcase** of the life and work of sculptor Michael Cooper, published by **Design Studio Press**. Over **300 stunning photographs** provide an in-depth look into Michael's youth in California's Central Valley; his art education and training at San Jose State University and University of California at Berkeley; and his career development and accomplishments over five decades. Included are insightful and informative essays by renowned essayist and historian **Paul Karlstrom** and **John Lavine**, former editor of *Woodwork* magazine, as well as a foreword by **Jeff Nathanson**, Executive Director of the Museum of Sonoma County. Over one-hundred



examples of Michael's detailed working drawings reveal his design ideas and thought processes as he plans and creates his sculptures, and 285 large, full-color photographs give the reader an intimate, almost tactile appreciation of the superb craftsmanship and creative expression apparent in his intriguing and thought-provoking sculptures.



Images courtesy of Design Studios and Michael Cooper.

Museum of Sonoma County

425 Seventh Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-579-1500
www.museumsc.org

Museum Hours

Wednesday - Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm

Admission

Adults: \$7
Seniors 62+, Students, People with Disabilities: \$5
Museum Members: FREE
Children 12 & under: FREE
Through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) can gain free admission for up to four (4) people to the Museum of Sonoma County simply by presenting their EBT card.

(The above pricing is *reduced admission* and applies when one building is closed. Admission is subject to change).

About the Museum of Sonoma County

Located in Downtown Santa Rosa on Seventh Street between A and B Streets, the Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) presents exhibitions of modern and contemporary art and local and regional history. MSC is open year-round with changing exhibitions, public programs, school tours, and special events. MSC preserves and manages a regional art and history collection of over 18,000 objects, the region's largest object documentation of Sonoma County's history and culture.

Mission

The Museum of Sonoma County engages and inspires our diverse community with art and history exhibitions, collections, and public programs that are inclusive, educational, and relevant.

Smithsonian Affiliate

The Museum of Sonoma County has been a Smithsonian Affiliate since 2009. Smithsonian Affiliations establishes long-term partnerships with museums, education and cultural organizations to facilitate the loan of Smithsonian artifacts and traveling exhibitions, as well as to develop innovative educational collaborations locally and nationally. Created in 1996 by an act of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, the program is overseen by the Smithsonian's Assistant Secretary for Education and Access and is one of the pillars of the Institution's national outreach efforts. There are more than 200 Smithsonian Affiliates in nearly every state, Puerto Rico and Panama. Affiliates represent the diversity of America's museum community—size, location and subject— and serve all audiences. More than 8,000 Smithsonian artifacts have been displayed at Affiliate locations for the past 20 years.

