



ROSS MATTESON, SAA

Resides: Olympia, Washington
b. 1957, Washington, USA

Crown of Thorns
Red-tailed hawk
Bronze
11 x 5 x 5

“Crown of Thorns” came into existence after I helped rehabilitate a red-tailed hawk that had broken its wing. A friend of ours here in Olympia is a veterinarian. He sometimes calls on me to use my falconry expertise to further prepare these birds for release back into the wild. We kept this particular hawk for a couple of months in our studio during which time she provided some very nice “live” reference. The sculpture features a dangerous rose vine, with some very sharp exposed bronze thorns—not unlike the talons and beak on my subject. The reference to “persecution” in the title is personal and in this case quite unrelated to the hawk.