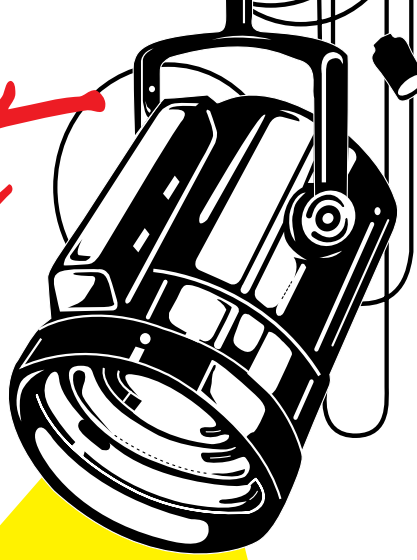


# Spotlight on Area Businesses...



Philip Pontillo's career catalyzed out of the restaurant business, where he worked his way up and eventually became a pastry chef. As a pastry chef he combined the elements of art and function to create unique desserts. Born and raised in Syracuse, New York, he moved to Whitefish in 1992. In 2000 he started woodworking, which rekindled his love of melding both art and function together, creating furniture.



Pontillo Furniture Concepts

Using Computer Aided Design (CAD), each piece of furniture that

Pontillo creates is inspired around the wood itself. The CAD allows Pontillo to design each piece of furniture to exact specifications with a full 3 dimensional simulation for the client. From beginning to end, Pontillo's customers are involved in every step. Each custom piece is unique in its own way.



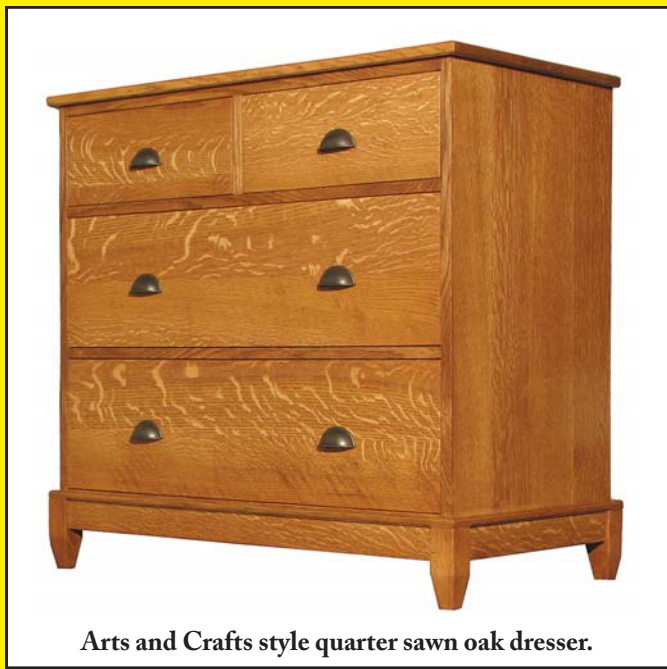
Philip Pontillo hand polishes one of his inlaid jewelry boxes.

"A lot of my work is made from unique, one of a kind pieces of wood, which makes the final product equally as rare," Pontillo said.

With more and more furniture being mass-produced overseas, Pontillo strives to offer high quality furniture individually made without the use of automated machines. Using proper

joinery techniques will allow the wood to move with seasonal changes, preventing warping and cracking. "All of the furniture that I make is heirloom quality. If it is taken care of it will last for generations," he said.

Pontillo selects the wood per project, ensuring consistent natural color, grain pattern and moisture content. He uses mostly clear hand applied finishes to bring out the natural beauty of the wood rather than using stains or dyes to reach a desired tone. Pontillo uses a wide variety of exotic hardwoods and highly figured woods to create some of his masterpieces, which include night stands, entertainment centers, a wide variety of tables, beds, dressers, other types of traditional furniture, as well as jewelry boxes.



Arts and Crafts style quarter sawn oak dresser.

Pontillo also uses different techniques of bending wood, such as steam-bending and glue laminations to create some out of the ordinary shapes, including a solid bent wood lamp with a wood shade that will be featured in his upcoming show.



Solid wood spiral coffee table with tiger maple top.

One of Pontillo's most unique productions is his hardwood fly boxes. All of the boxes are handmade using shop built templates and jigs with a router, which makes each box a little different than another and gives each idiosyncratic character.

Pontillo's work will be on display for the month of September in his upcoming show, Reshaping Wood: Traditional Woodworking With A Modern Twist at the Stillwater Gallery at Whitefish Pottery,

240 Central Ave. in Whitefish. The opening reception is on Thursday, September 4 at 6 p.m. Pontillo's work is also available for viewing after the show at Legends Fine Wood Furnishings at 1005 Baker Ave., Unit A in Whitefish. Pontillo also has all of his work online for viewing and you can check it out at [www.pontillofurnitureconcepts.com](http://www.pontillofurnitureconcepts.com). For more information please call 250-0658.

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