

Tim Lewis

"My art is self-taught. I am trying to make something that will last a long time, something that will be here a long time from now. I get a lot of pleasure with my work. I can't imagine doing anything else."

Tim Lewis was born in Elliott County, Kentucky, in 1952. He worked as a coal truck driver until he was 35. He had a terrible accident in his truck and was injured. He needed to find a new line of work. He looked around his community of Isonville. His cousin, Minnie Adkins, and others were making a living as folk artists. He thought "I can do that."

Tim had been a gifted whittler in his youth. He tried wood carving. He made unique walking canes from the trunks and root ends of small trees. He especially liked to work with dogwood and maple. His canes were instantly popular, but he wasn't satisfied. In 1989, he decided to try carving stone. He made *Noah's Ark* from a lump of sandstone. He had found his niche! His carvings have been included in exhibitions from coast to coast. They are in dozens of private and public collections, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum. In 2007, he was named *Artist of the Year* by the Folk Art Society of America. A solo exhibit of his work toured museums from Ohio to Florida for a year in 2009. His stone carvings tell stories, often stories from the Bible.



This carving is called "Adam and Eve." What symbols do you see?