



The John Stevens Shop and the Benson Family

Nine generations of stone carvers have been practicing their craft on Thames Street at The John Stevens Shop. The shop was founded in 1705 by John Stevens and four generations followed until 1927, when John Howard Benson and his business partner Graham Carey bought the shop and continued to carve stone by hand, using the same principles established by the earlier generations of the Stevens family. Benson found further inspiration in the use of the broad-edge brush, as practiced by the Romans two thousand years ago.

Strong proponents of the Arts and Craft Movement, Benson and Carey established an ethos of understanding materials, means, and forms. The combination yields the finest end result.

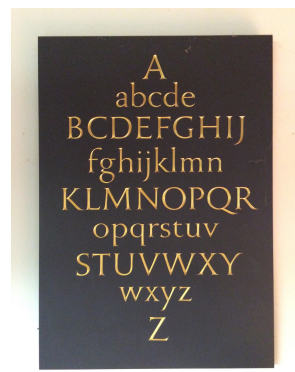
John Howard Benson (1901-1956) In addition to originating the generations of stone carvers, he was Professor of Sculpture and Calligraphy at The Rhode Island School of Design.

John "Fud" Everett Benson (Born 1939) With hammers, mallets, and chisels he has created notable works including; The Arlington JFK Memorial, FDR Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and Civil Rights Memorial.

Nicholas "Nick" Benson (Born 1964) As the current owner of the John Stevens Shop his awards include MacArthur Fellow and National Heritage Fellow. His architectural and monumental commissions include The Martin Luther King Memorial, the National WW II Memorial, Dwight D Eisenhower Memorial.

Hope Benson (Born 1999) Starting at age 18 Hope is the fourth generation of Benson stone carvers. Following the tradition of her Grandfather and Father, she uses a mallet and chisel to carve runes, Celtic knots, and other symbols on rocks gathered from local beaches. She plans on taking over the John Stevens Shop one day.

Visit the website, www.JohnStevensshop.com and hopebenensonrocks.com for more information



Ilse Nesbitt

The Third & Elm Press

Born 1932

The complexity of Ilse Nesbitt's work and lasting impact may be missed by a casual walk past The Third & Elm Press. Originally from Frankfurt Germany and raised in Japan, she studied fine art at the art academies of Hamburg and Berlin, with a focus on typography, completing her first woodcut prints. Moving to the U.S. in 1960, she taught typography and book design at The Rhode Island School of Design. In 1965 she founded Third & Elm Press with her late husband, calligrapher and type historian Alexander Nesbitt.

A walk inside Third and Elm Press reveals the artist's workhorses, an 1830 Acorn Press, and an 1897 Golding platen press along with various examples of her work which spans nearly sixty years. There are Japanese influences included in her limited edition books, pamphlets, stationery, menus, posters, note cards, and woodcut prints. The artist's process includes block cutting, paper making, and printing. She developed a unique method for printing color with just one block. Her work has been displayed in various galleries and libraries in both the U.S. and Germany and has received retrospective honors at academic institutions.

Visit the website, www.thirdandelm.com for more information.



Rupert Nesbitt

Born 1968

Rupert's focus on mimicking reality manifests in work in the form of digital 3D animation. His work explores issues of representation and notions of originality, authenticity, singularity, and multiplicity.

In the early 1990's he documented the performative and exploratory practice of climbing New York City bridges. That roving sensibility resulted in extensive international travel in the developing world including eleven summers spent in Egypt as an illustrator on archaeological digs. He then went on to do illustration work in the field of toy design, and, ultimately as a designer and animator of robotic toys in Hong Kong and China.

Rupert graduated from The Cooper Union with a BFA in 1991 and received his MFA from Vermont College in 2007.

Visit the website, <https://rupertnesbitt.com> for more information



Alexander “Sandy” Nesbitt

Born 1967

Sandy’s work captures moments that define the spirit of being in a place. His documentary-style images are created from real-life situations. His photography subjects range from teeth-clenching mountain heights to glistening beaches and vibrant urban atmospheres to funky cultural experiences.

In 1988, inspired by New York City’s Lower East Side, as well as the street photography of Pratt University Professor Philip Perkis, Sandy dove into producing a collection of visceral black and white images. He then went on to teach himself photojournalism for a project in the City of the Dead in Cairo, Egypt.

Sandy graduated from Pratt Institute with a B.F.A. in Sculpture in 1990 and launched his professional photo career in 1997. He is published in hundreds of publications and produces shoots for corporate and editorial clients.

Visit the website, <https://nesbittphoto.com> for more information

