

RESUME

ALLEN W. HICKS

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The ancestral Hicks home is in **Walnut Cove** in Stokes County, near Winston-Salem in western North Carolina. Allen's parents moved to Baltimore during World War II and Allen was born at South Baltimore General Hospital in 1949. He grew up in Brooklyn and later, in Linthicum.



Allen's parents, **George and Blanche Hicks**, passed away in the early 1990s and Allen began making art as a way to cope with his loss. It changed his life. Early influences were Pablo Picasso, his son, **Joe Hicks**, and the American Visionary Art Museum, where Joe once said: "Dad, you could make that."



Allen's backyard in Hampden features apple and redwood trees, several herb gardens grown by his wife, **Jenny Ehrhardt**, a great deal of totems and outdoor sculptures and one of Baltimore City's "notable trees" — a spectacular meta sequoia that towers over the neighborhood.



Allen Hicks is a graduate of Southern High School (now called Digital Harbor High School), St. Mary's College of Maryland (B.A. degree), and the University of Maryland's School of Social Work in Baltimore. (M.S.W. degree). (Above: "Horsehead," oak, 1998.)



AVAM and his son, Joe Hicks, provided the inspiration Allen needed to pursue his artwork.



Allen W. Hicks is a visionary outsider artist with long career as a civic activist and community leader. He is, briefly, a sculptor, painter, gourd artist, mandala creator, muralist, photographer, naturalist, vegetarian, gardener, farmer, print publisher and web designer. In the 1970s, Allen worked for VISTA and as a community activist; in the 1980s he was a trainer, educator, business owner and youth employment company director (Arbor, Inc.); in the 1990s he worked as a computer specialist for the State of Maryland, and in the early 2000s, he was a grant writer for Maryland Public Television. Allen served as president of the Hampden Community Council for several terms, as founder of the Friends of Roosevelt Park in Hampden, as president and founder of the Mill Valley Cultural Arts Umbrella, and as the key coordinator of a master plan for Roosevelt Park. (To see more images of Allen's work, please go to www.allenhicks10.web.officelive.com.) (Above: Allen works on a "throne chair" made from a 100-year-old white pine tree in his backyard studio.)



NOTES: Images (clockwise from "Teddy Bear," top) are "Star Man," "Four-Part Gourd Piece," "Three-Pointed Happy Totem," a sign for MVCAU's Art in the Park, gourds from MPT videotaping at Allen's studio, and a collection of witch sticks from Hicks Mountain in North Carolina.