

# *Ironwork Today* 4

*Inside & Out*



*Catherine Mallette*



Schiffer



# Sean Ahern

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## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Growing up in Charleston, I've been surrounded my entire life by Lowcountry landscapes, like marsh grass, Spanish moss, and architecture steeped in hundreds of years of history. Iron work is an integral element in many of the historical homes here. I draw inspiration from my surroundings and enjoy working with clients who have a connection to the natural elements of the Lowcountry, like cattails, grasses, and palm fronds, and I want these things worked into their designs. I derive so much of my creative energy from organic landscapes of all kinds.

My designs are always based on a few things: first, what makes the client tick stylistically? Do they love architectural and modern, classic and traditional, or more of a nature-inspired look? Second, what is the surrounding environment, including both the existing architecture and landscape? Lastly, how can I merge their design sensibilities with my own, and create something truly unique?

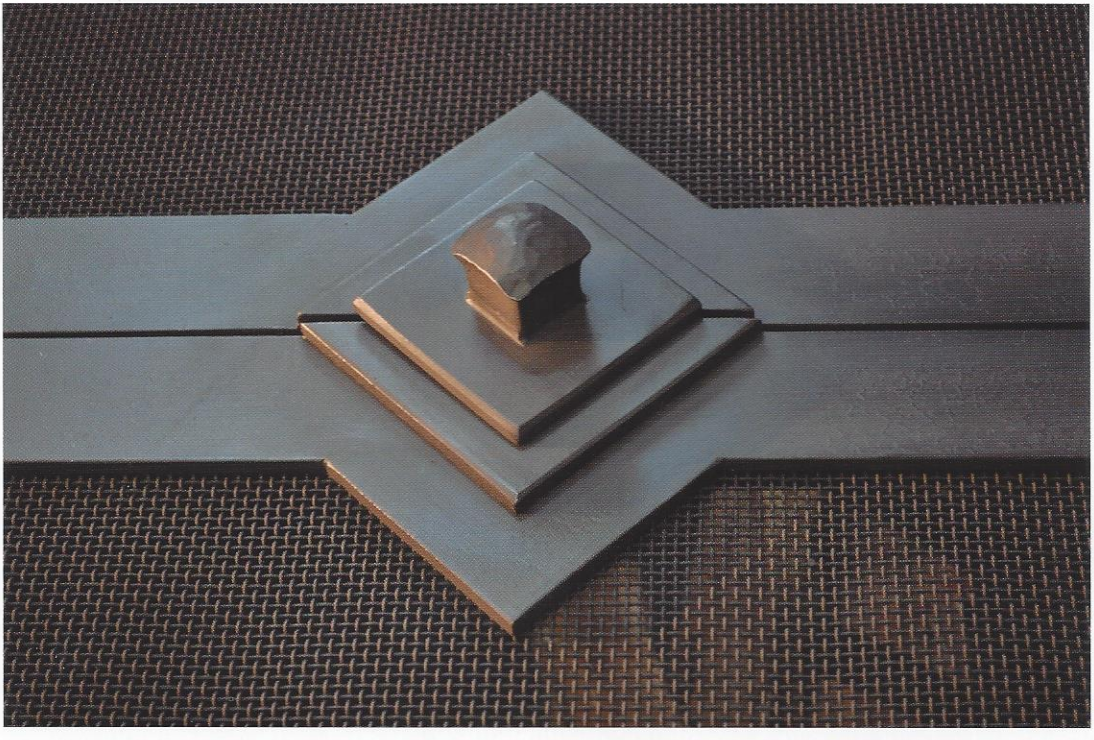
## Forged Cow Skull Andirons

*This piece was designed for a client who asked (with a smile) if I have ever made cow skulls before. I said, with a smile, "No, but I bet we can and I always like a good challenge."*

Forged cow skull andirons. 2012. Forged steel.







**Fire screen**

*This fire screen was designed for a client who wanted minimal but clean, crisp lines that gave the piece a strong presence in the room.*

Fire screen. 2013. Fabricated and forged steel.





*Forged Steel Grass Interior Handrail*

*This railing system was designed for a client who wanted to bring the image of surrounding marshlands of the Lowcountry into the interior of the home.*

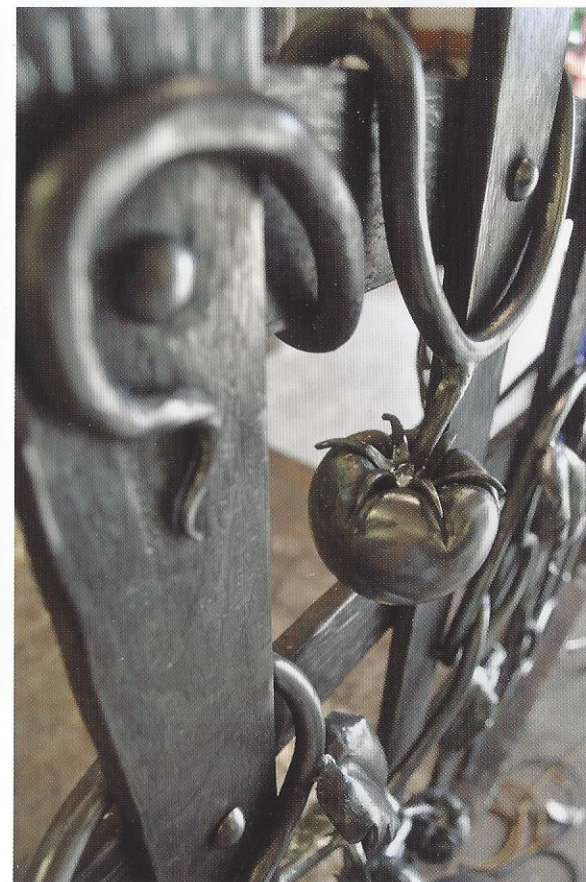
Forged grass interior handrail. 2012.  
Forged steel.



*Dogwood Blossoms*

*For a top local restaurant in Charleston, we designed and built a log rack with cat tails and marsh grass. When they opened a new location in Nashville, I decided to go with a more local type of vegetation for our Tennessee friends.*

Detail of panel with forged dogwood blossoms.  
2013. Forged steel.



*Tomatoes*

*This is a detail of one of four gates we built for the Medical University of South Carolina and their Urban Farm garden. Each gate was forged with wood grain texture and vined with its own forged local vegetable.*

Detail of gate with forged tomatoes. 2013.  
Forged steel.