

I v a n S t a n ě k - B i o g r a p h y



Ivan Staněk was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1954. Growing up under the influence of his father, renowned painter Stanislav Staněk, and his mother, textile designer Maria Staňková, he learned the rudiments of ceramics, woodcarving, metalworking, painting, sculpting and fashion design. As a non-party-member, he was, however, at fifteen years of age denied his dream of a career in industrial ceramic design, directed instead to agro-technical education. After four years of hard study, and despite his desire to continue on to his doctorate in agro-technical engineering, he was assigned to a farm worker role.

After three years of dairy farming, Ivan was finally able to again pursue his artistic dream by obtaining a two-year position in an industrial-oriented design company. In 1975, at age 22, he obtained an apprenticeship in ornamental metal design. After completion, he then worked restoring elements of historical buildings and antiques. Without the blessing of the Communist regime, Ivan was, however, not able to fulfill his destiny as an artist. He therefore defected with his wife and son to the United States in 1983. Since that time, Ivan has realized the artistic freedom that has meant so much to him. In 1987, he founded Stanek Design, and has worked as a metal sculptor, interior and architectural designer, custom furniture maker, and contractor. He has pursued his art both by himself and through collaborative projects with his son Michal, combining Ivan's metalworking vision with Michal's blown glass creations. Ivan's life and art have been shaped by diverse familial and cultural influences. His film, "My Blues and Greens", is an exploration of the most important of those forces, shared in a celebration of the art and philosophy of his father.