

**TOOTHPICK SCULPTURES**  
**BY**  
**STEVEN J. BACKMAN**  
**"The Essence of Patience"**

## Steven J. Backman's Biography

Steven J. Backman, a San Francisco native, has been creating toothpick sculptures since he was a child. It all began in elementary school when Steven made a science project of DNA molecules from ordinary toothpicks and beans. After accidentally getting a toothpick stuck in the palm of his hand, he quit this hobby.

While attending San Francisco State University in the fall of 1984, where Steven later received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Industrial Arts, he decided to design a San Francisco cable car for an art project using toothpicks and glue. After finishing the assignment, Steven created many more of them in various sizes. This was one way in which he knew how to show his appreciation for these mobile historical landmarks. Shortly after, Steven established his toothpick art business named "Landmarks of San Francisco" which he still presently operates.

Many cable cars later, Steven decided to create a toothpick sculpture of the Golden Gate Bridge. He began this long task in January of 1985 and completed it in April of 1987. It turned out to be thirteen feet in length and consists of 30,000 toothpicks. Steven gained a lot of media attention for his participation in the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Golden Gate Bridge, including a guest appearance on *"The Afternoon Show."* Most recently, he was interviewed on *"Good Day New York"* and *"CBS Sunday Morning."* In addition, Steven has been featured in several newspaper and magazine articles worldwide. Besides receiving proclamations from San Francisco Mayors Dianne Feinstein, Willie Brown and Gavin Newsom, his bridge sculpture was certified by the District Engineer of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in December of 1990. It is currently on display at *"Ripley's Believe It or Not!"* Museum in Hollywood, California. Steven's latest solo exhibition was featured in the lobby of the world famous Empire State Building March thru May of 2006.

Steven's passion for toothpicks has led him to create other amazing sculptures, including a four and one half foot long electric powered radio-controlled yacht he meticulously designed from 10,000 toothpicks. It features a double toothpick rudder system which allows the boat to glide swiftly in all directions in appropriate bodies of water. Steven is continuing his legacy by creating a new series of modern abstract toothpick sculptures.

Steven's favorite motto, "The Essence of Patience," truly exemplifies his drive and determination towards creating unique and unforgettable one-of-a-kind pieces of art. Steven feels that making these sculptures is as relaxing as lying on a secluded island at peace with himself and his surroundings. He is truly a perfectionist at heart and takes much pride in his toothpick works. Steven definitely gives a new dimension to the arts.

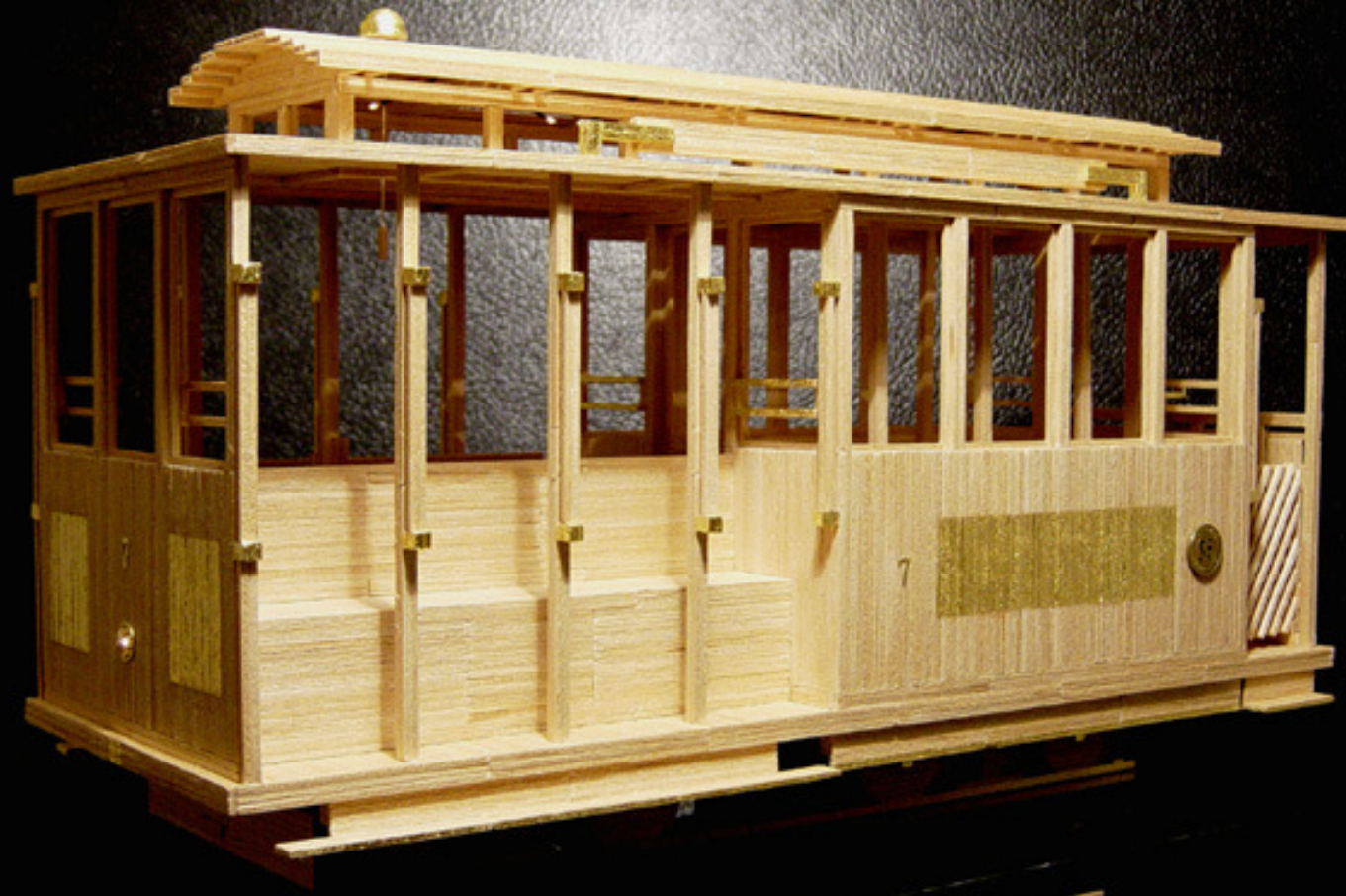






Seen above is a toothpick sculpture of the world famous Empire State Building. The abstract piece of art was created from 7,470 toothpicks and glue. It was displayed in the lobby of this "National Historic Landmark" March 17 thru May 23, 2006. Dimensions: 9"(L) x 4 1/2"(W) x 28 1/2"(H)

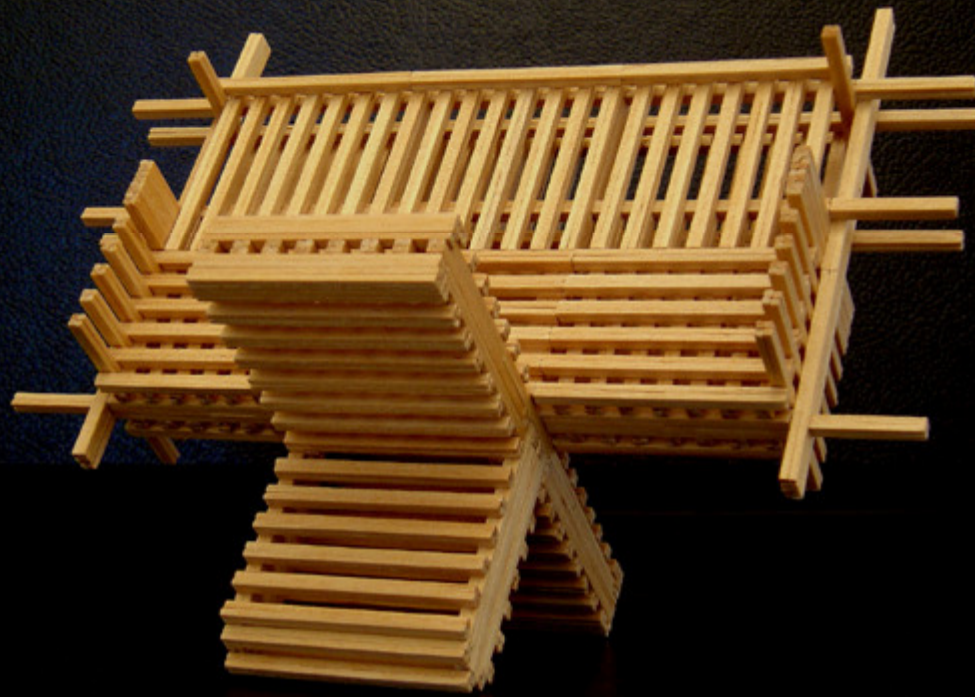




The San Francisco cable car, seen above, was created from 4,000 toothpicks and glue. It is illuminated with miniature lights, highlighted with 22K gold and is situated in an acrylic display case. It contains several details found on the original mobile historical landmarks. Dimensions: 16"(L) x 6"(W) x 9 1/4"(H)

The abstract seen above was created from 1,096 toothpicks and glue. This sculpture is untitled. It contains several divisions of space which reflects the feeling of repetition and order. It was completed in December of 2003.

Dimensions: 10 1/2"(L) x 6 3/4"(W) x 7 1/8"(H)





Seen above is a miniature replica of the Golden Gate Bridge created from 1 toothpick and glue. In relationship to the 13 foot long masterpiece created from 30,000 toothpicks by Steven J. Backman, it resembles the famous San Francisco landmark. Dimensions:  $1 \frac{7}{8}$ "(L) x  $\frac{1}{8}$ "(W) x  $\frac{3}{4}$ "(H)





The boat seen above was created from 6,000 toothpicks and glue. It has been covered with a fiberglass resin for water resistance. It is radio controlled and has a dual propeller system. It is powered by two 6 volt electric motors and one 6 volt sealed rechargeable battery. Even the rudder, which controls the direction of the boat, was designed entirely from toothpicks.

Dimensions: 39" (L) x 7 1/4" (W) x 4 1/2"(H)

