



Artist: Franz Burgstaller of Bärnbach, West Styria, Austria

Design: This elaborate creation is known as a Haussegen (House Blessing). It is shaped in the form of a cross and a fan bird is suspended at the bottom.

Construction: After the 4 oval-shaped rings of the cross are secured to the center post, 16 hearts (each holding a tiny fan) are inserted into the crossbars inside the rings. Then 88 more tiny fans are inserted along the outside rings.

The fan bird is constructed with two pieces of wood. The body and tail are one-piece ...and the wings are another that is seated into the body.

Franz uses only a sharpened common table knife to create this House Blessing. The many little detail cuts on each side of the fan blades enhances its elaborate appearance.

Franz told us that the only region in the world that makes the Haussegen (House Blessing) is Western Styria, Austria. An old custom there was to burn it every year and spread the ashes onto the fields ...then build a new one for the coming year.

Timber: Aspen

English language	Austria (language)
bird	Vogel
Christmas bird	Weihnachtsvogel
dove	Taube (die)
Dove of Peace	Friedenstaube
Easter bird	Ostervogel
fan bird	Faecherschnittvogel
fan bird dove	Faecherschnitttaube
fan bird legend	Faechervogellegende
fan carving	Faecherschnitzerei
fan carving wood	Faecherschnitzenholz
Folk Art	Volkskunst
Holy Spirit bird	Heilige Geist Vogel (der)
legend	Volkskunde
Old World folk art	Volkskunst aus alter Zeit
symbolism	symbolische Bedeutung
to cleave / to split / to rive	spalten or (zer)spalten
wood	Holz (das)
wood bird	Holzschnittsvogel
wood bird sculpture	Holzvogelschnittwerk
wood carvers	Holzschnitzer (der – die for plural)