

# Gourdgeous Works of Art

Locally and nationally known artists design pumpkins and scenery for The Great Westerville Pumpkin Glow.



**DEAN MURRAY**

Food Carver and Pumpkin Artist • Tillamook, Oregon

Dean Murray is back for his third season of The Great Westerville Pumpkin Glow as part of the team from the local company Rock on Ice. He is one of the top pumpkin carvers in the nation and his attention to detail and whimsical style have landed him on numerous TV competition shows. Murray has been featured on the Food Network four times and recently appeared on the Disney+ series Foodtastic where he was the winner of two episodes. He has even carved Pumpkins at the White House!

Murray's favorite part of being a food artist is the way people react when they see his art. He says he loves hearing "WOW! Is that really food?" or "Is that a real pumpkin?" when working on projects.

Thriving under pressure is one of his strong suits.

"It was so fun working with great friends and great artists," said Murray, recalling his time on Disney+ Foodtastic. "I think working under a time limit and in front of a camera often brings out some of my best work. There are so many cameras that they don't miss anything. The time limit does not allow you to second guess your choices; you just have to keep pushing to finish the whole piece."

Working on Westerville's event is so special for him because of the team's ability to "innovate and push to be even better when it's already one of the best shows he's been involved with."

"The Westerville Pumpkin Glow is filled with so many one of a kind artworks from start to finish," said Murray. "And I am proud to be a part of it."



**TONY BALL**

Sculptor and Artist • Columbus, Ohio

Tony Ball is back for his third season of The Great Westerville Pumpkin Glow. Ball, the owner of Tork Collaborative Arts, has been creating unique artistic and sculptural installations and functional works for commercial and individual clients for more than 25 years.

Tork Collaborative Arts was integral in bringing the very first Pumpkin Glow to life in 2019, designing and building nearly all of the displays and sculptures for the event. Ball has even developed a method for molding and casting custom foam pumpkins for this event. As a student of Columbus College of Art and Design, his dream was to create 3-D illustrations and create monsters and props, so this event is an annual nod to his beginnings as an artist.

"I try to emulate nature with a twist of whimsy in most things I make while taking the longevity of the fabrication and finish into account," said Ball.

Ball's favorite spooky themed art piece to date is the "Pumpkin Tree" (pictured above) featured in the Sleepy Hollow display at Pumpkin Glow. "I really enjoy the personality of that piece."

On being involved in Pumpkin Glow he says, "My favorite part of this process is allowing my creative side to shine to create the best possible displays. From concept to install, I learn along the way to create something that is new and different."

Ball's other works can be seen at Towers Park in Westerville (Nature's First Green shelter), Easton Town Center, Friendship Village of Dublin, Franklin Park Conservatory, and many other locations locally and nationally.