

### ***Manzanita***

The wood base your Don Merrell sculpture is mounted on is called Manzanita root. It's a small high desert bush that only grows above 5,000 feet in the high deserts of the southwest US and Mexico. Because of the harsh dry conditions the bush is small but the root system is massive. It's harvested with bull dozers, cut into manageable sizes and fumigated for two weeks to rid it of critters. It's then tumbled, sandblasted, sawn and sprayed with a urethane finish. The darker wood is extremely hard and the lighter very soft. Don selected this beautiful wood for his sculptures because of its rarity and unique shapes.

### ***22K Gold***

If your sculpture has gold trim, it is real 22 karat gold. The gold is applied at least twice and each application is fired at 1,100 degrees and takes 24 hours.