

# Artist Gianfranco Tassara renovates churches

*Ex-MATC student  
'inspired artisan'*

by Justin Roloff  
Times Staff Reporter

Did you know that MATC has an art gallery that you can visit? Did you know that MATC has produced an entrepreneur who has sculptures all over the world?

Inspired Artisans is the best-kept secret on the South Side. Students from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, UW — Milwaukee, and MATC have had their work displayed in Inspired Artisans.

Inspired Artisans' gallery night displayed various

sculptures and artwork that varied from religious pieces to bronze statues.

Gianfranco Tassara, a former MATC student, has a remarkable vision for liturgical art and renovating churches.

Students are able to exhibit work in an off-campus space and gain valuable life experience. Tassara enables these artists to get firsthand experience at the demands of the real world while simultaneously exploring different religious artworks.

Tassara's success didn't come overnight. He left Peru in 1974 to be reunited with his brother in Milwaukee.

"It wasn't easy living in Peru," he recalled. "There were



Jackie Brown/Times

GIANFRANCO TASSARA came to MATC from Peru to learn the language of his new country. Today, Tassara is busy at his shop, Inspired Artisans, Ltd., where he has focused on liturgical art and the renovation of churches.

more opportunities in Milwaukee than in Peru."

Tassara was asked how he felt about his journey to America and what was going on in Vietnam at the time.

"I knew my brother was here, and I wasn't worried about the current events. The Vietnam War was ending when I was arriving in America," he said.

Tassara has mastered something that many students lack: delayed gratification. Throughout his life, he has learned how to adapt and be patient in different situations. He has a passion for art and history.

However, he was to attend MATC to learn English and to build a stronger foundation. After five years at MATC, focusing on English as a Second Language, he began another transitional stage.

Tassara had a couple of manufacturing jobs in the '80s (a decade that had economic problems similar to our current situation), and he endured the job layoffs that riddled that decade. His patience would eventually pay off.

He struck gold in 1997. Without any grants or loans, he began Inspired Artisans Ltd. His operation is located in the

Milwaukee Enterprise Building, 816 W. National Ave.

Does this man have any advice to struggling students?

"You can't quit. Regardless how long it took me to complete my program at MATC," Tassara said, he succeeded in the end.

For more information on Inspired Artisans, call 414-672-9478 for the next upcoming gallery nights. Visit [www.inspiredart.com](http://www.inspiredart.com) to see some of the recent projects, employment opportunities, and to view the archives.

## GAMING

### Time Splitters 2 reliable

**Time Splitters 2** — TSP2 is developed by **Free Radical Design, Ltd.** and is published by **Eidos Interactive.**

If you like Halo, which I'm pretty sure you do, you will definitely love this game. I adore this game because it runs at a constant 60 fps (frames per second).

Usually PS2 fails at this attempt, but it came off quite nicely. Time Splitters 2 weaponry is some of the best I've seen in a while.

With interactive backgrounds, crisp visuals, and solid control right off the bat, this is a game to buy if you have a Game Cube or Xbox.

Our wait is not that far off for our version. I give this game 4 out of 5 controllers.

**Ty the Tasmanian Tiger** — Developed by **Krome Studios** and published by **Electronic Arts**, this is a traditional platformer with some puzzle element. Nothing here