



In fall 2012, I took a life-changing trip to multiple countries throughout Africa. It was my first time in Sub-Saharan Africa and words really could not describe the emotional and intellectual enlightenment I experienced on this trip. I say this only to emphasize the importance that many of the souvenirs (primarily artwork and statues) had for me. Some items were for my personal collection and others were gifts for family, close friends and important clients.

Before departing South Africa, we packaged several stone statues and made arrangements for Fed-Ex to ship back to the US. What we learned after the fact, is that customs and Fed-Ex are required to search large packages to ensure that they do not contain contraband. All of the items were unpacked at least twice during shipping and not re-packaged in their original form. Six of the statues arrived to the US shattered in numerous pieces. Heartbreaking would be an understatement. Fed-ex immediately agreed to waive the shipping and reimburse me for the cost of all of the items, but this obviously did not alleviate the massive disappointment.

I searched for a statue restoration business in greater New York as a long shot hope that someone might be able to get the statues to a presentable form at a somewhat reasonable cost. We found Lakeside Pottery which had high reviews and impressive testimonials. I selected three statues (that had the most importance to me) to have repaired. I was doubtful that the team at Lakeside would be able to work a miracle, but they did! Three times! I am blown away that they got the statues (each broken into 15 pieces or more) into a state that really looks better than new. Effort and professionalism are oftentimes a dying art, but not at Lakeside. These guys are pros and they really do work miracles.

Lakeside fixed an awful situation and I find it hard to imagine that there is any project they would not be able to handle.

Carlos Fleming

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Fleming'.