



BE  
AMAZING

THE SECRET LIVES OF AVOCADOS»  
FINALLY, A REASON TO DRINK SCOTCH»  
THE RENAISSANCE'S SPANX»



with BRITTANY SHOOT

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A Coin Sculptor

Before coins jangle in your pocket, an artist painstakingly creates each design. We asked U.S. mint sculptor **PHEBE HEMPHILL** for her thoughts on making change.

**MY FIRST LOVE** was sculpture. My father was a coin collector, and my grandfather's aunt was a very accomplished bas-relief sculptor. Bas-relief, or low-relief sculpture, is what we use to make a coin.

**FRENCH COINS** from the turn of the 20th century were the inspiration for the great American coins. Oscar

Roty's the Sower 1 Franc was a great influence on American coinage.

**WE DESIGN ON THE COMPUTER.**

And with new 3-D sculpting programs, we sculpt a fair amount on the computer.

**I'VE ALSO COLLECTED** an amazing amount of traditional sculptor's hand tools. They're more like fine miniaturist tools—modified dental tools, sculptors' rakes, small things I made.

**I DON'T DESIGN UNDER A MICROSCOPE.** Coin sculptures are created at eight or nine times the scale of the actual coin.

**WE'RE GIVEN A GOOD DEAL OF** freedom. With the America the

Beautiful quarters, which depict national parks, some states request a certain image. Other states give us full freedom.

**WE RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION** to design and produce every coin.

**CONGRESS CHOOSES** the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, which is made up of historians, sculptors, coin experts, and people representing the general public. They review our designs.

**GREAT COINS GIVE YOU** this feeling of magnificence and grandeur. They represent the spirit of the country at the time during which they were created.