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Sean Gillespie

Artist Statement

I create award winning, abstract sculptures from my studio in Denver, Colorado. My innovative designs feature the innate beauty of wood. The natural grain and variety of wood gives me a dynamic canvas on which to create. I incorporate colored metal, hand carved textures and graphic elements with a clean, contemporary aesthetic.

Ideas come from topography, architecture, people and music. I see everyday life as a composition and simplify what I see into line, rhythm, shape and movement. This gives me a visual vocabulary to create my designs and imbues each sculpture with its own personality. Each piece is conversational and speaks to the viewer in a distinct way.

Wood is a living medium. Trees can live thousands of years and bring warmth and comfort to an environment. All species move with the seasons and wood grain is very responsive. The wood records the movement of my hands, capturing the moment of creation in its rings. In that way, I use my carving tools like a painter uses a brush. Gestures and strokes reveal pattern and form giving my work emotional presence.

I am committed to providing artwork that elevates and expands the environments in which we work, play and live, improving the quality and experience of daily life.

Biography

Unexpected Evolution

Sean earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Graphic Design from the University of Akron in Ohio in 1994. Sean continued his artistic pursuits as a professional graphic artist, assembling a visual vocabulary that would be the foundation of his later work.

A breakthrough occurred while living in New Mexico. For fun, Sean enrolled in a woodworking class at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC). There he discovered the tactile experience of shaping and manipulating wood. Sean adapted quickly to working with this exquisite material. He began melding his design background and newfound skills to produce one-of-a-kind studio furniture. He graduated from the Fine Woodworking Program in 2003 and was hired to teach woodworking at SFCC shortly after.

Over the next few years of showing in galleries, teaching, and doing commission work, Sean became increasingly interested in the parts of the furniture he was creating rather than the furniture itself. He found expressive possibilities in those parts, sculptural forms with visual power.

In 2005, Sean began incorporating non-functional elements and alternative materials into his work. He moved beyond custom furniture into expressive wall and freestanding sculptural pieces, rediscovering abstractions from his graphics past. All his interests began to transform into a focused vision. Sean had been building experiences as a designer, furniture maker, sculptor and ultimately as an artist.

Sean now lives and creates in a one-man studio in Denver, Colorado. The demand for his sculptural work has grown into a full-time business called Fine Art Woodworking. Sean provides award-winning wood art through exclusive galleries, national juried art shows, and in collaboration with art consultants on corporate installations across the country. He finds great satisfaction working with wood and still teaches to share that experience.

Sean's life is devoted to art and artistic endeavors that elevate and expand the quality of daily life.