

## About me

I am a recent graduate of Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University in Grand Rapids, MI. I spent six years there as a double major in Art Education and Sculpture and Functional Art. I graduated in May of 2014 with two Bachelors degrees and High Honors.

I am now teaching high school art full time, which is by far the most exhilarating and exhausting experience of my life. I love what I do.

One of the many things that I love about life is having limitless opportunities to create. I work with many different materials including graphite, colored pencil, paint, metal, ceramic, paper, plastic, cloth, and wood. And while I believe that all of these materials are wonderful in their own respect, it is working with the natural beauty of wood that gives me the creative outlet that I thrive on.

Even as a small child, I loved being in the shop. I would regularly be found following my father out to the wood shop to watch him work on his many ongoing projects. This curiosity as a child steadily turned into a passion of my own as I grew into an adult. As a woodworker with a wandering imagination, it is hard for me to escape the fact that every living thing has a past, which has become more evident in my recent work. I try to incorporate the life of the material into my work through alterations to the natural order of the domestic object. This series is my own study of the odd partnership between domestic object and animalistic traits. Each piece has a character buried within its surface and I do my best to bring its personality out in my finished work.

The work that I produce is as polished and clean as I can make it, oddly stripping it of its natural appearance. In doing so it is given a present status of art as opposed to nature. I am meticulous and analytical in the way that I work with wood. The steps that need to be made to complete the piece are thought out and organized, each having to be done in a certain order. On the other hand, the process of making the piece is an exploration of the material. Finishing the piece is another step-by-step process, working my way from a rough raw surface to that of polished glass.

Much of my recent work deals with comparisons. Some things I have been investigating have been the comparisons between inanimate objects and living creatures, between different materials, and between time and quality. From these studies, I find myself learning more about materials, process, and myself and my personal opinion. No matter how far in either direction I travel with my work, it seems to be caught in a middle ground between functional art and sculpture, but this generally leads to further investigation of the work.