

## Wood Artist Statement

I conceptualize the ocean as a metaphor for the subconscious. I view the ocean as a flat blue surface from above, but know that below the surface there exists beauty, mystery, fear, intricate social relationships, and potential danger. The ocean is much more complicated below the surface than what it appears from above, much like the human psyche.

Semiotics and how nature can be a symbolic visual language to describe the human experience and emotive inner world intrigues me. The abstractions of nature— its forms and shapes— describe emotional states and create a dialogue between the artwork and the viewer. My work intertwines fact and fiction. The shapes and forms originate from my knowledge of marine biology, but I do not pursue to render specific species. Through my work I invite the viewer to escape into another reality, to experience another realm of imagination and possibility.

