

HEATHER ZUSMAN

Heather Zusman (b. 1994) is a wood sculptor living and working in Michigan. Zusman's works have gained recognition for their minimal form that features the natural color and texture of the wood grains. Influenced by traditional woodworking practices and design motifs found in Art Nouveau and the Arts & Craft Movement, Zusman's sculptural works are simple in form and purposeful in detail. She fearlessly pushes her medium to the brink: creating intricate compositions that bend, curve, and swell, casting shadows on the wall.

While most wood sculptors bend single pieces of wood with heat or steam, Zusman uses a highly involved process preferred by furniture designers. Gluing together fifteen to twenty layers of veneer, Zusman places the glued veneer in vacuum-sealed packs and manipulates the wood on a peg board. As the air is removed from the vacuum, the layers of veneer are solidified and transformed into a graceful work of art.

Born and raised in California, Zusman holds a B.F.A. in Art History from Trinity College with a focus in Architecture. Upon completing her undergraduate degree, Zusman discovered her interest in woodworking while designing custom furniture and lighting at The California Workshop (Costa Mesa, CA). Committing to educating herself further, Zusman was eager to learn how to design, cut, and craft wood without the use of computers and lasers. Zusman was the first American to train at the prestigious Waters and Acland Furniture School in Staveley, Cumbria, England, and later continued her training in Takamatsu, Japan, at the Naoki Ikushima Factory.



B. 1994, Long Beach, CA, USA

Lives and works in Muskegon, MI

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Newport Beach, CA - Kennedy Contemporary

Park City, UT - Julie Nester Gallery

Kennebunk, ME - KW Contemporary Art

Jackson, WY - Diehl Gallery

EDUCATION

2020, Naoki Ikushima Factory (Takamatsu, Japan)

2017, Waters & Acland Furniture School (Cumbria, England)

2012 - 2015, Trinity College, BFA Art History

EXHIBITIONS

2023

(Forthcoming) *Making Waves: Heather Zusman and Shane McClatchey*, Kennedy Contemporary, Newport Beach, CA

Bright and Beautiful VI: a holiday group exhibition, Group Exhibition at Diehl Gallery, Jackson, WY

2022

18th Annual Fête, Diehl Gallery, Jackson, WY

Group Exhibition: Heather Zusman and Joe Brubaker, Julie Nester Gallery, Park City, UT

40th Annual California Cool Art Auction, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA

2021

Shadow and Form: a study of movement, Solo Exhibition, Kennedy Contemporary, Newport Beach, CA

Grand Opening, Kennedy Contemporary, Newport Beach, CA

2020

House of Morrison, Newport Beach, CA



PUBLICATIONS OF WORK

January 2020, "Newport Beach Native Heather Zusman Crafts Unique, Minimalistic Furniture", Orange Coast Magazine

Winter 2016, "Sitting with Nuudles: Heather Zusman's Project Inspired by Swiss-French Architect", Trinity Reporter

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Deer Crest Club, St. Regis Deer Valley, Park City, UT

Global Infrastructure Solutions Inc., Newport Beach, CA