FRED ROSE
STUDIO VISIT

A PROGRAM FOR SCA MEMBERS

"The Poem the Lumberjack Whispers to His Ax", 1996- present - on going project

Fred Rose Studio
1959 Orange Ave.
Costa Mesa, California 92627

Saturday, May 19th 5 to 8 pm.
Light refreshments will be provided
YOU MUST RSVP TO: jch@juliacarolinedesign.com

I tend to work mostly in wood. I am fascinated by the oddities of wood, the idea of wood, the folklore of wood, the history of wood things, the practicality and discipline of woodworking.

Wood is the product of a living organism and as a material it records the history of its growth and the scars of its life in its flesh much as our own bodies do. All wood products are by their nature mummified flesh. Freshly killed trees are sawn into desirable cuts (butchered) and dried (mummification) rather than left to rot in the forest. Your floor, the framing of your house, the dining table, toothpicks, coffins. They are the dead carcasses of once living creatures. I believe that people know that wood comes from trees but often have lost the understanding that wood is a flesh and not plastic. My work is partly an attempt to remind people of this.

Most of the wood for my work I mill from trees that are being taken down in the urban forests of places like Long Beach and Costa Mesa, California. I combine found organic forms such as branches and wood oddities with my own man-made carvings, turnings, and furniture/constructions in attempt to connect wood back to the tree and to create new associations.

My way of working allows me to blend poetics and craft discipline so that I may explore the broad field and ideas of woodishness and combine them into new constructs rather than mastering one technique or style. I am interested in how the spectrum of traditions in wood from utilitarian woodworking, wood sculpture, and folk art can act as a visual poetry about the nature of the physical, forested world or the quirks of being human.

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