

Alexandra Cicorschi

## Artist statement 2024

I create wall-hanging sculptural paintings using a diverse array of wood species. My materials are sourced from discarded household objects and construction materials, which I cut into thin strips and then assemble into abstract, organic compositions. The results are tightly woven geometric constructions in which the colors and textures of wood interlock to create a sense of movement and fluidity. Through my work, I often reflect on the process of recirculating, which is a condition for life to exist in the same way nature renews itself through the cycle of life and death.

Growing up in Romania during its last years of its communism and dictatorship, I internalized at an early age how limited resources can fuel creative reuse. When in need, people reached out for help, forming communities, offering support - and almost nothing got discarded in this cycle. By salvaging and repurposing my materials, I reflect on the rapid transition I have witnessed in my lifespan, between a mentality shaped by scarcity to one of abundance. Our practices of consumerism have rendered generations of jobs and traditions obsolete. Traditional techniques that have been passed down through generations, embody not just skills but also cultural heritage and identity. For me, craft and sustainability matter more than ever in this age of impersonal mass production and the impact it has on our natural environment.

When I moved from Germany to California in 2011, I was immediately struck by the old-growth slabs of redwood and Douglas fir lying on sidewalks, awaiting disposal. As I started exploring other types of wood, I began relating the variety of color and grain to the intermingling of ethnicities in contemporary society. As an immigrant myself, my art practice is a way to reconnect to my cultural heritage and also to express my experience of adopting other cultures and creating new senses of belonging.