

ALEXANDRA CICORSCHI - Artist statement

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 organic movement and fluidity. Through my work, I often reflect on the process of recirculating as 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. While 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 consumerist tendencies have rendered generations of jobs and traditions obsolete. Practices that have been passed down through generations, embody not just skills but also cultural 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 struck by the old-growth slabs of redwood and Douglas fir lying on sidewalks, awaiting disposal. As I started alternating many different types of wood, I began relating the variety of color and grain to the intermingling of ethnicities in contemporary society. My art practice is a way to reconnect to my cultural identity and express my experience of adopting other cultures while creating new senses of belonging.