OUR ART OUR REGION OUR TIME

Vessel 17" x 14" x 6" Pine, maple NFS

Arden Carlson

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Bio

Arden Carlson is a practicing artist primarily working with wood sculpture, drawing, and farming. They currently live in the Northwest Arkansas region with roots tied to the Kentucky pennyrile. Alongside their current participation with the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food, Carlson recently earned their MFA in Sculpture from the University of Arkansas. Carlson's practice is a blend of traditional craftsmanship & modern technique; pushing the limits of wood in order to weave the intricate narratives of queer-southern living.

Artist Statement

Growing up in Kentucky, I spent a lot of time doing what most would consider typical southern things: fishing on the lake, burying myself in wild blackberries, or sitting hilltop talking stories with friends or relatives while looking out into the field. The quiet wonderings led to certain nuances in my imaginary thinking; which ultimately became vital to the ways in which I would continue to find meaning in the south.

My practice draws upon the entangled fields that grow as a result of endured connection with place. While rural-accented subjects speak specifically to the pastoral and domestic, underpinnings of belief, grief, and love span a wider reach than the boundaries of geography.