



Black Pearl Lily
15 x 11 x 11 inches
Sculpture
NFS From Collection of Cece Box and Ric Cooper



Bentwood Bird
15 x 13 x 13 inches
Sculpture
NFS From Collection of Cece Box and Ric Cooper

Leon Niehues

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Bio

Leon Niehues lives and works in Madison County where he processes materials from his 40-acre woods. As part of the back-to-the-land movement in the 1970's, he found the natural world intriguing and in 1981 began making baskets from his woodlot. Today, Niehues mixes simple traditional tools and techniques with new ideas and a sculptural imagination that make his work compelling to the viewer. Since 2008, he has focused on bending fresh white oak into forms with human-like qualities and movement that are at the same time old and new, simple and complex. He has been a studio artist for 40 years

Artist Statement

My baskets and bentwood sculptures are made of white oak. I process materials from fresh, young logs from my 40-acre woods. When I begin a basket, it is form that I consider first. As I weave, I build an asymmetrical shape that gives the basket a front that faces the viewer, often with a forward lean, and graceful moving lines. I think of my work as having human-like gestures and postures. Throughout the process, I employ simple and direct techniques that I continue to build upon until the construction is complete.