



Statement:

I grew up in rural southern Indiana. As a child I was largely left to my own devices to develop ways of entertaining myself. This meant that much of my time was spent out in the landscape, avoiding the hornet's nests and concocting adventures. I occupied countless hours with wandering the fields and forests where I would live out elaborate invented narratives. During these travels I collected small objects: interesting twigs, a stray precious geode, perhaps a cicada shell or two if the season was right. I used these as triggers to later remember these stories I had created. When I first began these expeditions, I could not read. I used these objects as a kind of lexicon to retell my experiences again and again. This is a practice that has stuck with me and is the basis of how and why I create.

My work is autobiographical. It is a collection of short stories. Using wood, mixed media, and surface adornment, I have developed a three-dimensional language to create forms that write out lived narratives. My methods of construction are directly informed by the memories on which the individual pieces are based. My process begins with a series of writing exercises that help determine how my recollections will be abstracted into tangible forms. It is a way of telling my story without revealing sensitive personal details.

My most recent body of work examines how landscape becomes intertwined with memory and how individual places become a monument to the experiences lived there. I am exploring how we transform unfamiliar spaces into familiar landmarks of our personal histories.

Bio:

Ruby Troup is an artist who uses wood to create highly narrative work based on her formative years, and on the environments in which she has lived. Her forms are evocative of the body, landscape, and vernacular architecture. Often using reclaimed materials and a wide variety of surface treatments, Troup explores ideas of transformative growth, recollection, place, and home. Ruby lives and works in northern New Mexico and holds a BFA from the Herron School of Art and Design and a MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University.