

Jeff Key

100 Vessels—Theories of Evolution

"100 Vessels," a series of sculptures created during the past 30 years, focuses on theories of evolution with allegorical and metaphorical references to the past, present and future. I have adhered to an underlying investigation focusing on anthropology, sociology, political, and physical science as well as psychology and theology in the creation of the "Vessel" series.

In examining questions of evolution I have taken into consideration aspects of birth and death, war and power, shelter, transportation, communication, technology, and food/water sources with reference to climate change and the influence of the Earth's incongruities on these elements.

Although abstract in nature, my work makes allusion to the vessel, a cross-cultural, and at times totemic form which represents human presence and the cycle of life. The pieces are primarily constructed with wood and flax, a natural plant fiber. For health and environmental reasons I stopped using toxic materials when I began the "vessel series."



"Vessel #89—Counterpulse"
Wood & Flax 30" x 15" x 28" (h)



"Vessel #54—Timbre"
Wood & Flax 36" x 43" x 15" (d)



"Vessel #94—Harbinger"
Wood 28" x 22" x 24" (h)

Jeff Key was born and raised in San Francisco, California. He received his B.A in Communications and Public Policy and his B.F.A. from the University of California at Berkeley. He received his M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute. Jeff taught Sculpture and Media Arts at the Head-Royce School in Oakland, CA where he also served as the Chair of the Fine Arts Department.

In 2009 Jeff founded Media Enterprise Alliance (now Youth Beat), a non-profit that provides underserved Oakland students the opportunity to study digital media. Jeff served as Executive Director of Youth Beat until his retirement in 2017. He currently serves on the Youth Beat Board.

Jeff's work can be found in the following collections:

- Di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, CA
- Lafayette Library/Learning Center, Lafayette, CA
- University of Wisconsin
- Netscape Communications, Mountain View, CA
- Cadence Design Systems/3 Com Corp, San Jose
- Clorox Corporation, Oakland, CA
- First Federal Bank of San Rafael, CA

"Vessel #24—Nesting"
Cast Bronze 33" x 36" x 63"(h)



For further information contact:
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