



JO STONE

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The bulk of my work is biologically inspired. I am constantly amazed by the beauty of the diverse and similar forms of flora and fauna both readily visible and microscopic, living and fossilized. In my recent work I hybridize from this variety of sources in hopes of creating new forms that also mirror aspects of humanness

Form follows function has never been my design motto, at least not as an end in itself. Equally important to function, I believe, is the presence and feel the object projects, and the thoughts and feelings it evokes in the viewer. A functional work of art has the ability to work on multiple levels, and I find that an exhilarating challenge. The poet Robert Creeley said form is an extension of content. He also spoke of his poems as things made of words. I see my pieces as parts of a language, a language that I get to explore, invent and understand a little better each day.

While a student and as a young artist, I had many opportunities to travel, researching work in museums and galleries, which helped to fuel the development of my work. In the last decade or so, work and the responsibilities of adulthood have gradually made the freedom and time for these explorations much more rare.

The ITE gave me the time to view and digest the work of others. I got to know and better understand the ways of working of my fellow residents, and we got to travel and view the works of many others in collections, exhibits and studio visits. Some of these makers were familiar to me, others not. It was also interesting to see various stages of some of these makers' careers in the collections we saw. It felt good to get out of the focus of my own way of working and to let other new ideas into my perceptions. I also realized...

... that I was seeing all these lovely things made of wood, few of which were furniture. This has been very good for me to shift my focus from furniture making, and open myself up to new forms and ways of working.

I have learned that I will need to log many more hours in front of a lathe before I can accurately draw the forms I can envision, and make them a part of a new way of working. I look forward to seeing how this experience changes my work in the years to come.

I would like to thank the Wood Turning Center, The Furniture Society, The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers, my fellow ITE residents, and the generous collectors who opened their homes to us, for making this experience possible and so enriching. Lastly and largely I would like to thank my family, who I deserted for four weeks to do this residency.