

Troy Olaf Murrah Artist Statement

Los Angeles-based, Houston-born artist Troy Murrah cuts thousands of wood fragments from leftover remnants and discarded furniture to construct elaborate wall hangings that replicate traditional quilt patterns. Take a closer look and find hand-painted, engraved, and hand wood-burned details—patterns and illustrations by the artist using imagery influenced by his past.

Murrah holds a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Texas, Austin. He has 20+ years working in production and set design, metal fabrication, building and designing recording studios, and saving up material (wood, metal, doors, window frames, etc.) leftover from these jobs along with discarded furniture left on the roadside.

When his mother (well-known quilter, wearable art designer, and art educator Judy Murrah) passed away in late 2017, he remembered her words, “*You should incorporate quilt patterns into your art.*” With this as inspiration, he created a new body of art in her memory for a solo art show *BUILT QUILT: Wood Quilts & Engravings by Troy Murrah*. This ended up being a great way to use up reclaimed material and bring new life to the old. Taking on a life of its own, Murrah's wood mosaics continue to expand with new artistic additions created on an ongoing basis.

In Spring 2021, his book *Wood Mosaic Projects* was released with Fox Chapel Publishing. When he's not making art, he's making music with his two-piece band RESTAVRANT! or enjoying life with his wife Michelle and their three sons.

His work will be featured in a special solo exhibit *RECLAIMED: Wood Mosaic Art by Troy Murrah* at this year's International Quilt Festival in Long Beach, CA.

See more: www.troymurrah.com

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