

Alexandra Cicorschi

The medium I use to create art has at its core salvaging and repurposing wood materials. As I strip layers of paint or varnish and re-mill found objects, I aim to reveal the organic origins inside our urban surroundings. While my process uses a meticulous execution derived from traditional furniture making, my abstract compositions are inspired by nature's spontaneity and playfulness. The process of working for me is a process of meditation, through which memories and emotional states take shape from materials.

Growing up in Romania during the last years of its communist regime, I internalized at an early age how limited resources can fuel creative reuse. When in need, people reach out for help, forming communities, offering support - and almost nothing gets discarded in this cycle. In the process of creating something new out of something old, I reflect on the rapid transition I have witnessed in my lifespan, between a mentality shaped by scarcity to one of abundance. The practices of consumerism have replaced generations of traditions and crafts, while individuals are disconnected from their cultural heritage and a sense of belonging.

The majority of the wood I use in my work comes from local demolished houses and old furniture. I started working with salvaged materials when I came across discarded construction slabs with over 400 rings in their grain. Knowing that one ring stands for one full year, I was struck by the idea that people could regard something this old and beautiful as trash. In my current art practice, I find it important to source my materials and upcycle them with the intention of not purchasing new lumber. When I buy a slab of wood, I imagine another tree being cut.

The wood strips I create from found materials become brushstrokes inside my canvas. Colors and small movements inside wood grains influence large movements in the composition. Open angles guide the fluidity of lines, telling a story of perpetual movement and transformation. Continuity is at the base of creation because everything evolves from something. My work is a reflection on the process of recirculating, which is a condition for life to exist, as seen in the way nature renews itself through the cycle of life and death.