

AMERICAN
art
COLLECTOR





HOLLY WILSON

Retellings

Holly Wilson says her work is about “looking for magic and not forgetting to look for the wonder in the simple things in life.”

She continues, “I grew up hearing many stories from my mother. I was drawn to those of shape-shifters with the idea of a trickster who wears a mask to hide their identity, birds as messengers and owls as bearers of tragic news. These stories also now run through most of my work...They reference traditional Delaware and Cherokee stories that she told me as a child and symbolize transformation and obfuscation.”

The figures in her work, constructed of cigars and sticks and cast in bronze, reference her mother’s stories of the “Stick People” who “would run through the night and call your name; if you went with them, you were never heard from again. She never described the figures, and I was always drawn to the idea of



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1

what they looked like. The Cigar Figures are my reimagining of that story, [which is] now a story of family and my past—a complicated narrative of loss, survival and resilience. The faces are of the people from my memory, a collection of details on one side like that of a photograph and the other of a silhouetted family portrait just the shape of the face, the shadow of the person in history and in my memory.”

Her latest work will be shown at Bonner David Galleries in Scottsdale, Arizona, April 11 through May 2.

Her Stick People often walk and climb along pieces of natural wood, connecting them to the earth and to her memories. In *Gathering*, the locust wood is cut at an angle to represent the mountain she lived on in Cherokee, North Carolina, as well as “the mountain we all climb



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during life." The surface of the slice of wood shows its growth rings; the story of its own life. She relates, "When *Gathering* is hung, the light casts shadows of the figures on the wall. These shadows represent for me memories. Memories cannot be held, they have no words, and in the end we are all only a shadow in history, shadows on this earth."

She continues, "I consciously incorporate shadows in my work by controlling the lighting and relationships of the figures, giving form to the secrets that linger in our lives. The secrets take form in my work as shadows that hang in and around the forms, shifting as the viewer's position shifts much like how secrets take different forms sometimes benign and sometimes nefarious." ●

Bonner David Galleries
 7040 E. Main Street • Scottsdale, AZ 85251 •
 (480) 941-8500 • www.bonnerdavid.com



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1
Gathering,
 bronze, patina
 and locust wood,
 28 x 16½ x 5½"

2
Paper Wings:
Fearless, bronze and
 patina, 21 x 23 x 13"

3
The Interwoven
Dragon, bronze,
 patina, cedar and
 steel, 60 x 24 x 68"

4
Between Us,
 encaustic on
 birch, 10 x 8 x 2"

Holly Wilson



"The Interwoven Dragon"
bronze, patina, cedar and steel / 60" x 24" x 68"

"Holly Wilson | New Works: Homage #AlbertoGiacometti"

April 11 – May 2, 2019

Special Artist Reception and Show Opening: Thursday, April 11, 2019

6:00 - 9:00 pm