

## Jason Middlebrook Uses Recycled Wood To Produce Striking Geometric Paintings And Sculpture

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Using a unique surface Jason Middlebrook creates abstract motifs. He takes tree bark and combines its natural grooves with ideas which speak to nature in a way that celebrates its form and at the same time symbolically shows how man has put his stamp on it. In his plank series he takes different types of discarded wood such as maple, black birch and cottonwood to create paintings which follow the natural pattern of bark but in the process creates a beautiful design. They exaggerate what's already there and makes beautiful process out of recycled materials.

In wall works Middlebrook takes it one step further and mimics the tree bark with materials such as bronze and stainless steel. These evoke more of a cave mystique. The darker surfaces and nature reference rocks and harder surfaces. The colors in a few are subdued hinting again at the random way things are formed in a natural state. While the wall works made of tree bark begin to resemble minerals found in rocks due to color and application of paint. Middlebrook finds a nice common ground to play with what's found in nature and remaking it using another raw material. Middlebrook has been working with wood for many years. Some of the other projects he's been involved include garden gnomes, park benches and birdhouses. He currently lives and works in Hudson, NY.

