

Lily Tsutsumida's Art

CREATES BALANCE AND HARMONY

BY JULIE LEAH

Lily Tsutsumida's *Komposition* series is a nod to Mid-Century style and modern Bohemian design. She works with wood, stone and metal and is inspired by balance. Lily explained her art process. "The way my pieces develop reminds me of an ikebana flower arrangement. I let the shapes and the forms speak for themselves and let nature's beauty be the calling," and it is her calling as an artist.

Her *Komposition* art series began in 2020. Lily said, "The world got smaller and I was staying home, and the one thing that I felt was in my power was to turn to art when the pandemic hit. With extra time on my hands, I started experimenting with ways to add new life to my Eastside townhome... and the first wood and brass wall hanging was born."

To experience Lily's art is like a walk in the park or a forest in the early morning. When you have an art piece from her *Komposition* Series, it is like a little piece of Lily's peace of mind!

Lily cuts the wood shapes on a scroll saw, and then sands and finishes each piece by hand and assembles them with a chain and metal rod using jewelry-making techniques. She finds it particularly empowering as a woman to use power saws and work with natural elements, and deal with all the grit and sawdust that envelopes her studio as the artwork emerges.

Lily explained, "As kids, we get muddy with grass stains, but as adults, we don't always do

that. It feels good as an adult to get gritty and messy and to be a kid again when I create art."

She emphasized, "The wood and nature pieces have a calming and soothing effect and they smell good too, especially the shapes made from cedar."

Most of Lily's wall hangings are a quarter of an inch thick, and when finished, weigh under a pound. She explained, "The wood is thin, and so is the metal – they are easy to hang, with one little nail."

Lily would like to tell everyone, "Make space in your life for the hobbies that center you and bring you joy, and support others in their endeavors as they do the same. The time spent working on my wall hangings is always fun because it's a passion project that I started purely for the joy of it. When I go into the art studio, I create beauty in a world that is chaotic."

When she isn't making art, Lily Tsutsumida works as an art therapist and psychotherapist in the community, and believes wholeheartedly in the value of creativity in self-care and mental wellbeing. She lives in Eastside Costa Mesa with her husband, Evan, and their two cats. Lily also operates her own private therapy practice, specializing in work with teens and young adults.

For more information:

Lily Tsutsumida's *Komposition* series can be viewed at MoonGoat Coffee Roasters for the next few months. Her pieces can also be custom ordered through Etsy or Instagram,



KOMPOSITION SHOP

