

ARTIST STATEMENT

John E. Snyder
Woodworking Artist

Silva-Studio
www.silva-studio.com

I've been fascinated with wood and its many forms and function from a very early age. My first medium of choice was "Tinker-Toys" being too young to utilize the many tool in my family home basement. Later, I was fortunate to have a grandfather that stayed with us every summer. He was a "jack of all trades" and took me under his wing as his apprentice. He taught me how to mold, shape and manipulate the wood into strong functional objects with durability. Form, was not his concern, just function and strength. That initiated my love for wood and its versatility.

Later in high school, I followed my father's footsteps and trained as a machinist for 3 years. While there I became fascinated with the geometry of objects and the math that led to their functional construction. Throughout my career as an electrical engineer I've worked with wood on the side exploring the bridge between form and function. In the past decade or so, my love of woodworking turned into a passion of exploring the forms that accentuated the unique beauty of the type of wood and the piece I was working with.

This foundation has brought me to my current work in segmented and solid turnings. With the solid turning, the wood owns the process. The wood blank unique features define its shape and proportions, my role is to execute the process of transforming the wood blank into a vessel that defines it best. Segmented turnings satisfy the engineer inside me. My goal is to create a pleasing form that begs the question of how it was created. These pieces require the geometries to be precise and often involve hundreds of pieces and months of work. My ultimate goal is to create work that you find wondrous and pleasing.

