

Justin Varner received his MFA from Indiana University and his BFA from Lamar University. Justin is an artist and professor at Houston Community College. He creates wooden constructions and sculptures that reference Modernism, Futurism, sci-fi inventions, relics, with functional and non-functional purposes.

His work has been exhibited at the Dishman Art Museum, Rudolph Blume Gallery, K Space Contemporary, Grunwald Gallery, Wedge Space and Lawndale Art

I'm curious about what might be going on next to me that I can't see, and what's going on far from me that I'll never see. If there is an alternate reality, another dimension, or unknown places, can it somehow be experienced or accessed in a tangible way? I believe it can be through a creative process based on impulse, intuition and chance and analysis; I attempt to produce glimpses and artifacts from unknown places.

I rely on wood as my primary medium to make my work. I admire its structural qualities, malleability, solidity, texture and its ability to accommodate a wide range of painted surfaces. The surface and construction can appear slick, damaged, weathered, or go against its traditional applications.

What's developed is something of functional mystery. My pieces appear abstract and sharp, simple and archaic or playful and absurd. These works reference relics and inventions that serve multiple purposes. One might serve as a tool for hunting or repairing, while another acts as a mirror, portal or recorder of unknown activities in a bizarre place. These could be artifacts for grand and important purposes or perhaps cheap and useless ones. There is no way to know for sure.

The intuitive process of artists has often been used to alter or translate what is observed, work from within, or to reject all conventions from art history. I'm looking to put my guard down and react to what I cannot see, but believe is very much present.

