

Jim Estes

In a symbolic and subconscious way, my sculptural forms pay homage to the perfection of nature. As a native Mid-westerner, I have long been infatuated with the area landscape and this infatuation manifests itself, sometimes subtly, sometimes in more obvious ways, in the materials I use and the forms I create. I work primarily with wood and clay, since these are materials that provide a direct reference to the landscape, as well as being materials that abound with changing and irregular surface patterns reminiscent of topographical views of the earth. Incised lines and glaze additions are added as suggestions of vapor trails or aerial views of highways and roads in Middle America.

In all my work, I make a concerted effort to respect the integrity of the natural materials with which I work and strive to maintain a level of craftsmanship that is commensurate with that found in nature, the perfect builder. My work does not exist to merely mimic nature, but to reflect the visual and textural properties of the landscape and the earth's surface variations. I want my work to be quiet, even understated, yet enigmatic enough to remind the viewer that the earth changes much more slowly than those of us who inhabit it.