

Wood



Wood is all around us – in our homes and furniture, in manufactured goods and in handmade crafts. It is used to make toys and musical instruments, baseball bats and bowls, picture frames and wall hangings.

There are many different types of wood with different characteristics. There are also many different tool and techniques for working with wood. This chair, made by Terry Ratliff, is made of oak with a seat made of hickory bark. Terry learned traditional chairmaking from chairmakers in his community. He uses only basic tools like a draw knife and a drill press. Terry's work is functional as well as decorative, so he strives to create chairs that are comfortable.



Minnie Adkins started whittling as a child, and even today, her favorite tool is a pocketknife. She uses it to whittle whimsical, free standing figurines, which she paints with acrylic paint. This table, called Circle of Friends, features a number of her carved animals circling a sculpture representing Minnie herself holding a bright blue rooster.



George Wakim made this traditional Lebanese instrument, called an oud. Unlike many stringed instruments that have a skin-faced soundboard, the oud has a wooden soundboard. This gives the instrument its responsive tonal quality. For instrument makers, the most important aspect is the sound the

instrument produces!

Lavon Williams also draws on cultural traditions to create his carved and painted wooden wall art. He is a fifth-generation wood carver. He carves in bas relief, meaning that he carves into a flat panel of wood. The figures project only slightly from the background. He creates scenes inspired by African American culture, like church-going men and jazz musicians.

