

## The Element Stories consist of multiple and integral projects that

- Y honor our natural resources
- Y create "contemporary relics" which reference historic cultural symbolism
- Y incorporate forces of nature to create physical alterations as an artistic medium
- Y raises questions of environmental custodianship
- Y acknowledge humanity's creative and destructive nature
- Y create dialogue about loss and transformation
- Y examine internal regions; vulnerable/pensive/enlightened
- Y explore external locations; private/hidden, exposed/public, mysterious/remote
- Y unfold as natural processes that adapt to new inspiration
- Y seek to inspire a collaborative community

Creativity is the most significant force in the birth of civilization and the origin of our beliefs. It is imagination, through experimental ideas, that opens the way to discoveries in science, medicine, politics, technology, economics, and spiritual faith. Today, creativity is the active power in establishing a new range of perception that challenges our tendency towards global conformity.

An artwork that makes world circumstances visible through representation in organic contemporary relics, stimulates thought about the environment, awareness of entrenched practices and the introduction of new thought.

100 Tears, Red Trees, World Rivers, and Fleeting Flock are four projects that travel through stages, using fundamental components of the universe to create artifacts of relevance to the notion of adaptation. Both Eastern and Western definitions of the natural elements are given consideration, with wood, metals and minerals as additional sources of inquiry. The relics are made with materials, such as glass, fabric, bronze, silver, iron and porcelain, that connect metaphorically to the content. The materials react differently when exposed to the action of the elements. The resulting appearance is that of beauty that is found in the details of what may be considered imperfect.

1



### 100 Tears, 3 parts

*earth, the tear relic*

100 Tears explores individual memory and universal sentimentalities, and the correlation between compassion, thought, and creation. The mediums of glass, hard metal and a reflective surface are used to make a series of tears that address the different types of emotive states that are specific to the properties used; fragile, heavy and illuminant. Each series of tears is transformed in meaning and appearance by exposure to the elements.

2



### Red Trees, 5 phases

*sun, the shroud relic*

Red Trees memorializes our forests and brings awareness to their depletion. Red fabric covered over 300 cut trees for one year and was bleached by the sun with impressions depicting the last breath of the tree. The "shrouds" have undergone years of transformation by interacting with earth, sun, air, water and ether. Different locations of each phase travel the emotional trajectory of empathy, awareness and commitment, action and change.

3



### World Rivers, many stages;

*water, the curtain relic*

The essence of our waterways is captured in white cloth that flows in rivers. World Rivers unite regions while the relic of curtains reveal the hidden; the condition of our water. Attention is given to our planet's rivers through stories that tell of water's contributing role in the growth of unique civilizations. Cultural findings are united to illustrate our common origin of beliefs. World Rivers honors the vital life source that is in crisis today.

4



### Fleeting Flock, 4 passages

*air, the bird and eye relic*

An artwork about climate, the condition of air, and the animal world. Fleeting Flock explores the element of gold, its value, and the time when the beauty of gold was replaced by the value of gold; when gold's link to the heavens was replaced by greed. Fleeting flock examines height and flight in relationship to the bird symbol and the intuitive senses.

*The order of the elements is very important in learning about process. Air, Fire, Water, and Earth, and the element of Ether contains them all and could be viewed as the beginning to which the cycle returns--the perfect circle.*