An Enquiry Into the Materiality of Form

Chandrakant Kaluram Mhatre



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Woodworking is my material investigation into form. By designing and constructing forms physically, I explore how structure, proportion, balance, space and use shape one another. I work with plywood, building each piece from scratch by hand. My practice moves between functional objects and more complex spatial compositions, guided by the conviction that function is inseparable from form.

Material: plywood · Design and construction: Chandrakant Kaluram Mhatre

Beginning with use

My early pieces investigate how practical requirements can generate form. Furniture and instrument storage become exercises in proportion, support, arrangement and the relationship between an object and the space it occupies.



Footrest

July 2018 · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist



Coffee Table

August 2018 · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist



Percussion Rack

June 2018 · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist

Repetition, pattern and structure

Ashwattha: The Tree of Life extends the investigation beyond furniture into an ornamental, architectural form. Repeated elements and cut-out shapes establish rhythm across the structure, while the overall composition depends on the relation between its individual components.



September 2018 · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist



Construction detail

The developing piece reveals repeated plywood elements and the decisions involved in assembling them into a larger form.

From component to composition

These works continue the move from straightforward utility towards shaped components and more deliberate spatial relationships. Each piece tests how a form can retain its own character while participating in a larger structure.



Eaglet

November 2021 · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist

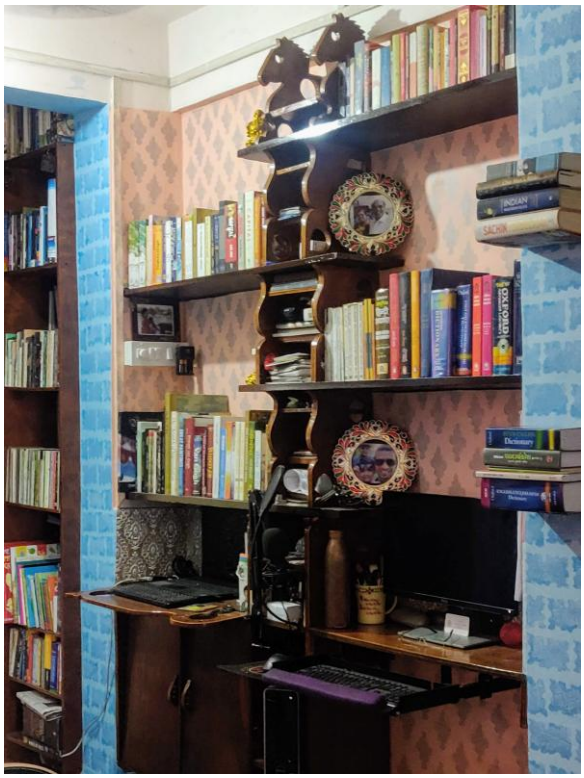


I-land

November 2021 · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist

Two installations: Forward March and The Torch

These installations extend the investigation from individual objects to forms that organise space and generate relationships between distinct elements. The works are presented together as part of the development of the artist's material investigation into form.



Forward March

2018 · Installation · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist



The Torch

September 2021 · Installation · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist

Function as a formal question

Built for my five-year old niece Alice, *At Mad Hatter's* brings bodily use and sculptural construction into direct relation. The piece asks how a functional object can also organise space and hold a distinct visual identity. It reflects my conviction that function is inseparable from form.



April 2022 · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist

An architectural composition

Makhar is the most challenging work in this body of woodworking. Distinct components are brought into relation to create a larger architectural composition whose identity exceeds that of any one part. Repetition, proportion, balance and the organisation of space are central to the work.



August 2022 · Plywood · Designed and constructed by the artist

The work in relation

The views in use show *Makhar* entering into relation with its setting and use. The in-progress detail brings attention back to its making: the separate elements and material decisions through which the overall composition takes shape.



Front view in use



Side view in use



In-progress detail

The making process is part of the investigation. Working with plywood makes the relationship between an individual element and the larger structure visible.

Prepared for the HIAP Learning Materials International Artist in Residence 2027 application.