



BARBARA COOPER

www.barbaracooperartist.com

Nature is always my place to begin. I am drawn to how forms respond to stresses they withstand and the obstacles they confront. Starting with observations of specific phenomena, I abstract the parallels I find in processes as diverse as the surge of lava, the creep of a glacier, the flow of water, or the growth of a tree.

My focus is on how a form records its growth process of evolving from one condition to another as it responds to its environment. This process of transformation, whether in the natural environment or in the realm of cultural or the personal, is an essential aspect of life. It is the foundation upon which my work builds.

- Barbara Cooper

Born on August 21, 1949, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Barbara Cooper works in sculpture, drawing, and public art. Additional projects include gardens and structures for dance and theater. Depending upon the objective of the project, she utilizes diverse media such as wood, metal, paper, glass, and found objects. Manipulating solid material in a fluid manner, forms reference movement and growth. The work is biomorphic in style and process driven, growing from the inside out. Imagery evolves from paring down forms in nature to their essentials, finding common denominators, and eliciting references that blend genres. Utilizing repurposed materials whenever possible, issues of sustainability and an ecology of wholeness are embedded in her work.

A graduate of Cranbrook Academy of Art and Cleveland Institute of Art, Cooper's work is in the collections of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin, the Smithsonian National Museum of American Art, Honolulu's Contemporary Museum, and the Illinois State Museum. She has had numerous residencies and fellowships internationally. Her work can be seen at www.barbaracooperartist.com.



Pneuma (2019)

Wood & perforated stainless steel / 45'L x 13'W x 3'H
ProMedica Toledo Hospital Generations Tower, Toledo, Ohio
Photography: Tom Ethington



Circuit (2015)

Wood and perforated stainless steel / 18' W x 7' H x 8' D
Hinsdale Public Library, Hinsdale, Illinois
Photography: Eileen Ryan Studio



Ecotone (2013)

Wood and metal / 36' x 12' x 8'
Florida Gulf Coast University Library, Fort Meyers, Florida
Photography: Ed Chapelle



Transitions (2009)
Stainless steel and brass / 3' x 11' x 6'
At Paulina stop of the Brown Line of CTA, Chicago, Illinois
Photography: Eric Craig studios

Sculptor Barbara Cooper / Images provided by the artist.



Interval (2009)
Hand painted, fired glass tile mosaic / 82' x 16'.
TF Green Airport, Providence, Rhode Island
Photography: Eric Gould



Current (2007)
Wood structure / 6' x 5' x 20.5'
Avalon Branch Library, Chicago, Illinois
Photography: Eric Craig studios



Breach (2010)
Wood and glue



Husk (2011)
Wood and glass / 41" x 40" x 16"



Maelstrom (2017)
Wood and books / 27' x 26' x 8'



Fuse (2018)
Wood and books / 26" x 38" x 9"

Photography: Eileen Ryan Studio

Sculptor Barbara Cooper / Images provided by the artist.