



VINCE SKELLY: AFTER THE STORM

**On view July 2-12, 2022, noon-6pm Weds-Sun; VIP preview July 1, 2022, 3-7pm
322 South Broadway (2nd Floor), Los Angeles 90013**

Tiwa Select is proud to announce its first show with artist Vince Skelly, showcasing works made from six different types of wood growing in Vince's hometown of Claremont, California.

On Friday Jan 21, 2022, a severe wind storm hit Southern California, with gusts of over 83mph hitting Claremont, a small university town just outside of Los Angeles locally known as "The City of Trees." During the six-hour event, over 300 trees were blown over—91 in city parks alone. In both an effort to assist the city with the cleanup, and to preserve the legacy of the felled trees, Skelly drove around in the days following the storm and marked trees which had usable timber, which he gathered at his studio.

Skelly started carving wood in Portland OR, learning to sculpt with mostly local white oak and Western red cedar; the variety of new woods available to him after the storm—deodar cedar, pine, redwood, live oak, eucalyptus, and magnolia—presents an interesting learning opportunity for Vince to finesse his craft with new materials. Halfway through making the pieces for the show, Vince lost access to his studio, so started carving on highway turnouts and abandoned lots.

As with all objects that Skelly sculpts, the soul and patina of the living tree are encouraged to shine through—acknowledging the sad loss of the ancient structures. For this project, Skelly has carved objects of which some are entirely functional—tables, chairs, benches—and others serving purely a decorative function.

A printed journal will be presented with images taken in the days following the storm by Los Angeles-based photographer Justin Chung, and showing the intriguing process of Vince's salvage and harvesting of timber. The images serve as a beautiful record and a harsh reminder about the challenges we face with a changing climate.

With extreme climate events like the January wind storm only becoming more frequent with global heating, it's imperative more than ever to listen to our ecosystems and to conserve and replenish them for future generations. A percentage of sales from works will be going back to the city to aid replanting.

Showing in tandem in the space, Max Farago of FARAGO will be presenting a series of small works by Ben Berlow (b. 1980, Los Angeles), whose whimsical framed works are a great compliment to the scale of Vince's work. Like Vince, Ben works with found materials—in this case, scraps of paper—and he also explores notions of shape and lines in his works.



About Vince Skelly

Vince Skelly has a strong interest in forms that show the relationship between past, present and future. He draws from the relationship between ancient building forms and their similarity to contemporary architecture and furniture. All of his work being “carved from a single block,” Vince believes there is an amorphous relationship between the contemporary and the prehistoric, giving him a vast array of unified objects he desires to sculpt. He is transfixed by how ancient carvings and prehistoric tools look perfectly placed in the modern world.

About Tiwa Select

Celebrating the ever-evolving culture of craft, and the unexpectedness of the handmade, Tiwa Select is a gallery and platform championing self-taught artists and makers. By introducing the functional objects that they make to a wider audience, Tiwa Select connects time-honored traditions to a life lived in the present. Founded in 2021, Tiwa Select has showcased works in New York City and Los Angeles by artists including Jim McDowell, Megumi Shauna Arai, Deborah Needleman, Minjae Kim, Simone Bodmer-Turner, and Nadia Yaron.

www.tiwa-select.com