



LAURA PETROVICH-CHENEY

STATEMENT

My work as a visual artist, educator, and writer is rooted in craft, feminism, and personal history. I draw inspiration from stories of resilience, renewal, and hope, exploring color, pattern, and texture through the legacies of quilting, weaving, and embroidery—reimagined in wood and reclaimed materials.

I create wall sculptures from salvaged wood, much of it collected from homes destroyed during Hurricane Sandy, including my own. These fragments hold memory and loss. When both my home and my parents' home were destroyed by the storm—and shortly afterward, both my parents died—I turned to these remnants as a way to stitch together grief, resilience, and repair.

The process is one of both risk and recovery. I cut and arrange weathered siding, floorboards, and cabinets into geometric patterns drawn from textile traditions. I never paint the surfaces; their color comes directly from the histories they carry. Each cut or connection holds the possibility of failure or renewal, echoing the fragility of the stories embedded in the wood.

The grid—borrowed from quilts, weaving, architecture, and the natural world—offers a structure for holding memory and order, while reminding us of its vulnerability to collapse. These “wood quilts” inhabit a space that is at once domestic and enduring, fragile yet resilient.

At its core, my practice is about piecing fragments into something whole, transforming what is broken into forms of survival and repair. It is both a reflection on the past and an invitation to imagine a more enduring future.