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## ARTIST STATEMENT

**Heidi K. Henderson.** Oil Painter.

I have always been drawn towards the image of a tree. Every ding, scar and deformity gives evidence of the tree's life.

I paint on pieces of reclaimed doors and found wood carefully chosen for their character and history. They become my canvas; alternately used as found, cut to size, flipped, flopped, or turned. It is important to me to not cover the entire surface of the wood, but work with the grain and existing layers of old paint, the clues to its previous life.

Stories based on botanical and figurative forms have become central to my work. I apply acrylic and mediums onto my wooden canvas with my fingers and hands building up layers until images emerge and begin to tell a story. Unquestioningly, I move to the next step, expanding the story's details in oils, emphasizing, building up, and intensifying nuances of color and detail within each piece.

Titles are integral to my work. The title and the story work together to complete each piece.