

# ARTIST STATEMENT

## STIRLING GORSUCH

*Elementals* is an exploration of opposing forces in the natural world. Such opposites can include heat and cold, light and shadow, growth and decomposition, and so on. I am interested in ways that different environmental conditions can exist in a single image. This has pushed me to deconstruct representational forms in order to depict the same place at different times.

My use of geometric forms is used to describe the passage of time. These mechanical details function similar to a calendar, displaying a time-span in the environment while also creating a tension with the more organic and textural forms. The angular exactness and precision of these geometric elements is my way of interpreting nature's adaptability and continual reshaping of itself. Similar to how changing seasons or weather conditions can present new ways of viewing a particular environment, I want my work to remind the viewer of the ephemeral and enduring qualities found in nature.

For this series, I worked both from sketches and photographs I've taken in central Oregon. I sourced most of the imagery from along Santiam Pass, between Salem and Bend, as well as the area around Warm Springs.