

CHLOE HEDDEN | Artist Statement

"So when you are alert and contemplate a flower, crystal, or bird without naming it mentally, it becomes a window for you into the formless. There is an inner opening, however slight, into the realm of spirit. . . We are a species that has lost its way. Everything natural, every flower or tree, and every animal have important lessons to teach us if we would only stop, look, and listen. . . What could be more heavy and more impenetrable than a rock, the densest of all forms? And yet some rocks undergo a change in their molecular structure, turn into crystals, and so become transparent to the light. Some carbons, under inconceivable heat and pressure, turn into diamonds, and some heavy minerals into other precious stones. . . Can human beings lose the density of their conditioned mind structures and become like crystals or precious stones, so to speak, transparent to the light of consciousness?" --Eckhart Tolle

This series by Chloe Hedden and Bill Hedden explores the growth forms of the mineral pyrite. Pyrite or 'fools gold' grows in organic ever expanding interconnected cubes. This father daughter duo creates the free standing and wall sculptures out of the wood 'paulownia' inspired by Sarah Hedden's (Chloe's sister) dedication to Japanese Tea Ceremony. Paulownia is the official wood of Sarah's school of tea and it has some very desirable attributes for sculpture, namely that it is lightweight, yet very fine grained so that it takes detail well. It is also abundant and fast growing. The artists create hollow boxes out of wood and then carefully interconnect them in a complex and painstaking joinery process. Essentially, the sculptures grow in a way that mimics the natural crystals while bringing these tiny minerals into a larger than life scale. The final result is painted and finished in precious metal leaf: 18k Gold, 24k Gold, Sterling Silver, Rose Gold or Copper. 'Show Facets' of the sculpture are also enhanced with exotic hardwoods or shell, many of which have been in our possession for decades. The final result is geometric while still feeling organic, opulent but earthy.