

Artist Statement

A sense of belonging can take many forms as well. In the piece Above It there is a look and feel of nervous separation or at least an attempt. The title reflects the title of the song, which inspired the formation of the piece. Above it is a song created by musician Trent Reznor. The song projects the impervious nature of the character in the song, as well as, the folly of isolation. While I was working on this piece during the national “lockdown” the song kept coming back again and again. As this year’s weeks unfolded there was a sense of preparedness for certain regions and a total lack of seriousness in others. The later projected a feeling of being “above it all”. After watching footage of once crowded areas void of human activity, it appeared as if the same spaces were having increased wildlife activity. As the piece’s small home is nestled high above the ground, seemingly safe within it’s perch of sweetness, small trees are sprouting nevertheless. Belonging regardless.

Certainly many things have changed throughout the world, but there are foundations that bind us together. Whether it is place(home), happy spot, or belonging these are the things that keep us moving forward, despite it all.

John Swartwout