

## Ariel Bowman

### Artist Statement: The Timekeepers

I make sculptures of prehistoric animals that represent the wonder to be found in natural history. I am intrigued by animals that evolved with distinct features, such as unfamiliar tusks, strange, elongated limbs, and unusual proportions. I use clay to bring these extinct creatures back to life, sculpting folds of flesh and filling their bellies with air. The goal of my work is to bridge the gap between art and science. In my work I use reflective nostalgia and imaginative realism to place extinct creatures in the context of human history.

*The Timekeepers* series presents these extinct creatures as decorative objects inspired by 18th century French mantle clocks. This period in history represents the age before the discovery of fossils that changed our perception of time and our relationship to nature. The clocks tick backwards presenting a challenge to the viewer's expectations and understanding of time. Prehistoric animals are from deep time, the geologic time scale used to measure the age of the earth. These millions and billions of years are like hours and days to the minutes that have been human history. As the clocks tick infinitely backwards the mysterious animals of the past return, grow more powerful, and soon sit atop the remains of time itself.