

Nike Of The Forest  
&  
The Call Series  
by Jason Tennant

There are two predominant themes of these works. “The Nike of the Forest” is an appropriation of the Greek sculpture “Winged Victory of Samothrace” and applied as an expression of the resiliency of nature to human impact.

The second theme, entitled “The Call” is an expression of an ephemeral experiences that one is exposed to when immersed in nature.

As a current owner of a secluded wood lot with a pond, a mile and a half off-road, this theme then extends into the concept of one being the role of caretaker, or steward of the wood lot. The allegorical quality of these works also steals from religious iconography.

There are two main physical elements to each sculpture in this series, the centerpiece and the wings.

The centerpieces are old roots and trunks of American Chestnut trees. I have foraged these rot resistant remnants from the hills of the Finger Lakes in New York State. These diseased trees had been cut down in the 1930’s in an effort to save the species from extinction. This disease was accidentally imported through trade with Asia in 1904. (See attached vintage American Chestnut statement.) The deeply furrowed and sinewy quality of these pieces are a documentation of 70 years of time, laying on the forest floor.

The wings are carved from hemlock that I carefully choose and carve so that the exposed grain is book-matched for symmetry and mimics plumage patterns of wild birds. The finishing work is an additive and subtractive process I have been developing for 18 years, and have applied it to other expressions in my art.

I have been sculpting and painting for thirty years and have an MFA in sculpture from the University of Buffalo.

Jason’s work can be viewed at [www.jasontennant.etsy.com](http://www.jasontennant.etsy.com) or [www.jasontennant.com](http://www.jasontennant.com). Also Facebook at Jason Tennant Sculpture & Painting.

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