

Woodland Sprites

With Aaron Smith





WOOD SCULPTOR







CAMP SMALL

URBAN WOOD RECYCLING

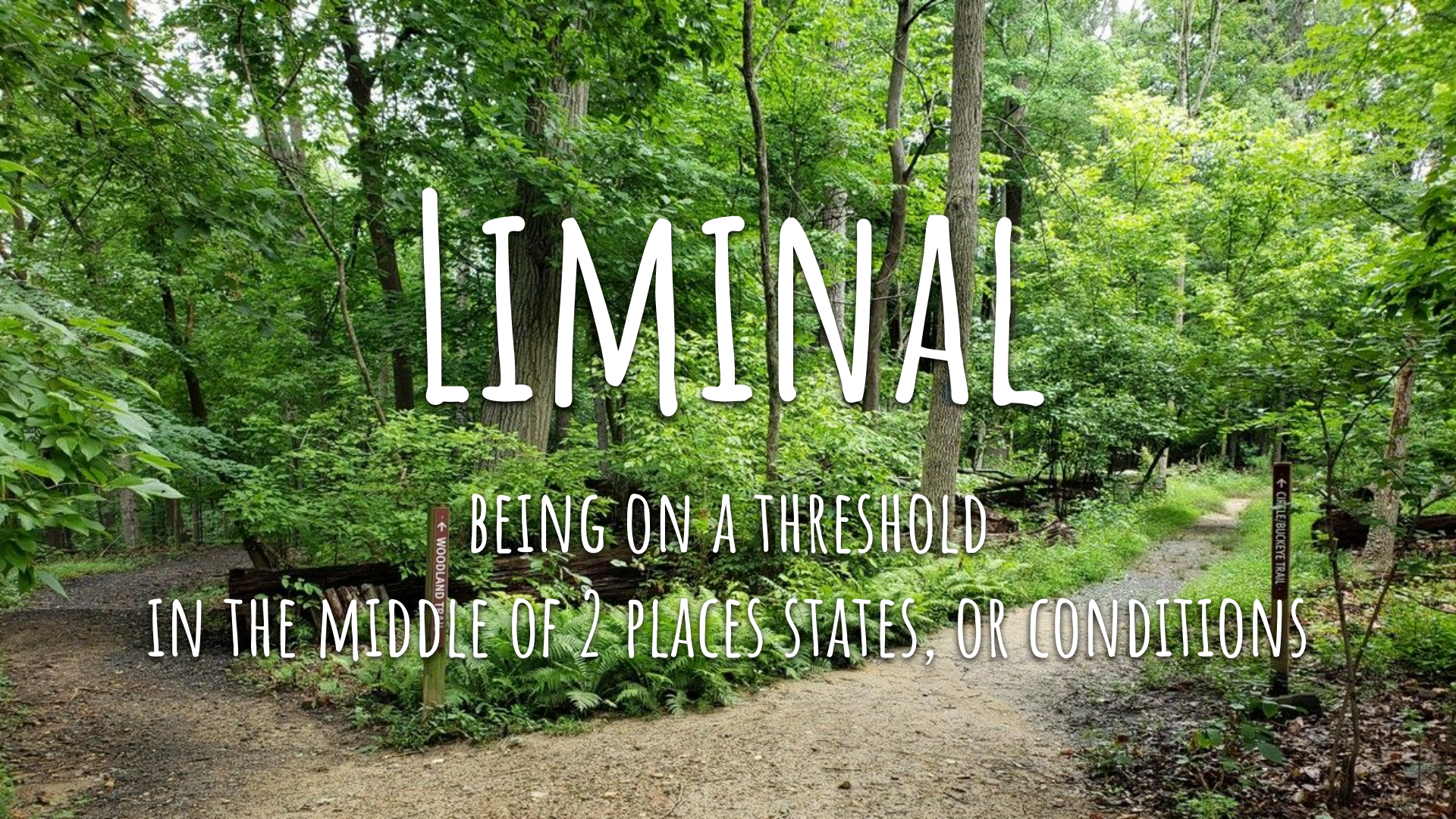


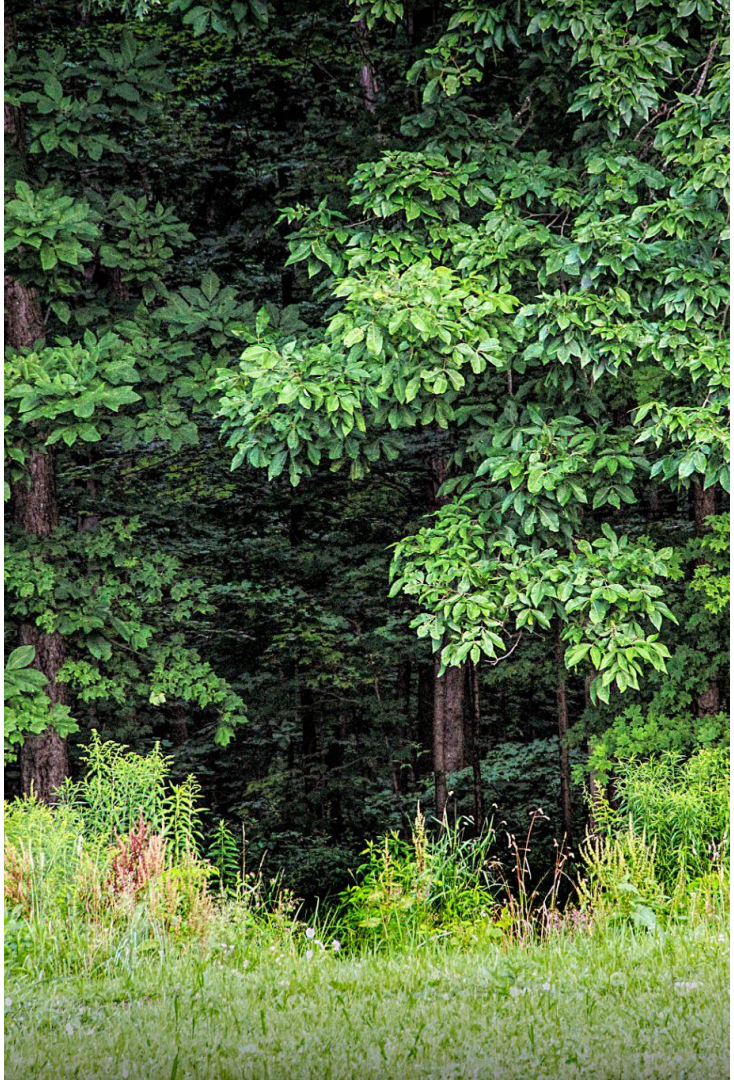
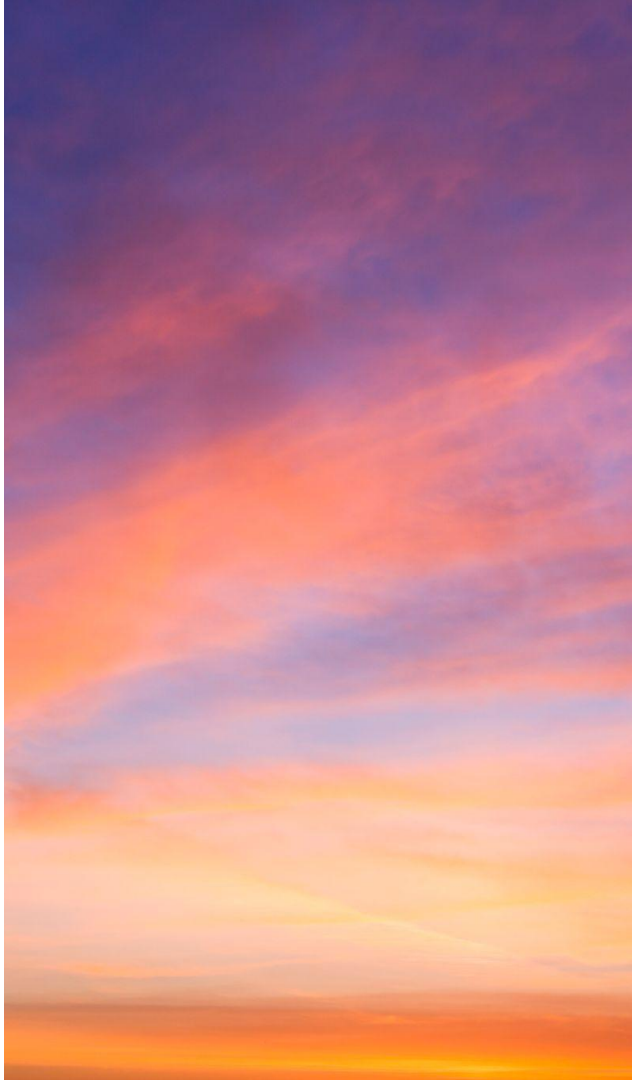







WOODLAND TRAIL
CIRCLE BUCKEYE TRAIL


LIMINAL
BEING ON A THRESHOLD
IN THE MIDDLE OF 2 PLACES STATES, OR CONDITIONS
WOODLAND TRAIL
CIRCLE BUCKEYE TRAIL




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SPRITES
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SPRITES





Mmoatia
Ghana

In Akan folklore, the Mmoatia are small, forest-dwelling folk with backward-pointing feet and a whistle for a voice. They know the secrets of healing plants and delight in mischief—the black Mmoatia are known to be kind, while the red and white are tricksters.

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These Sprites where carved from White Oak, native to Maryland. The Arbutus Oak stood for more than three centuries before it fell in 2019, its long life and wisdom now echoing through the trees like the Mmoatia.

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Leshi
Ukraine

The Leshy is guardian of the woods, dedicated to the balance and well-being of the forest. He protects its creatures, guides travelers, and keeps nature's secrets—but only those who approach with respect. In Ukrainian tales, the Leshy is always alone but part of a family, as rooted in the forest as the trees themselves.

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Carved from Black Locust, a hardy tree with fragrant blooms that feed pollinators and with deep roots that restore the soil, these figures evoke the tree's strength. Thriving even in the hardest ground, the Black Locust mirrors the Leshy's resilience and care, standing as both protector and healer of the forest.

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Dryads
Greece

Dryads are tree nymphs, shy and gentle spirits who live within a single tree. They are guardians of the forest, nurturing plants and creatures, yet fierce when the tree they inhabit is threatened. A Dryad's life is bound to her tree—its strength and fate are her own.

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These figures were carved from burls—rounded, knotted growths formed when a tree meets stress and endures. Found along the Jones Falls Trail, each burl carries the marks of resilience, echoing the Dryads' deep bond with the trees they call home.

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Kodama
Japan

In Japanese folklore, Kodama are spirits of ancient and sacred trees, their presence a sign that the forest is alive and well. Rarely glimpsed, they drift as pale lights or ghostly figures among the branches. To harm their host tree is to call down misfortune, but to honor it is to walk in harmony with the forest.

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Carved from Zelkova, also called Japanese Elm, these figures carry that spirit forward. Planted along Erdman Avenue in Baltimore's Belair-Edison community in the 1920s, the trees stood for a century as guardians of the neighborhood—echoes of the Kodama's watchful care.

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Jogah

Susquehannock

The Jogah are the “little people” of Iroquois legend—forest spirits known by distant drums, bare circles, or tiny bowls left with offerings. Playful and mischievous, they love tricks and games, yet guide those who treat them with respect. The Susquehannock people hunted these very grounds, where the Jogah’s presence still echoes among the trees.

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The Great Tree of Peace was an Eastern White Pine where the Six Nations buried their weapons to end years of conflict. Its roots reach in four directions, offering shelter and calling all to live in harmony in harmony.

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Curupira
Amazon

The Curupira is a forest guardian in Brazilian folklore, known for bright red hair and backward-facing feet. His tracks lead hunters astray, punishing those who take more than they need from the forest. Mischievous yet protective, the Curupira keeps watch so the wild may thrive.

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Carved from Black Walnut, a native tree prized for its strong wood and deep roots. Black Walnuts release a natural chemical that fends off competing and invasive plants—an unseen defense that mirrors the Curupira's role as protector of the forest.

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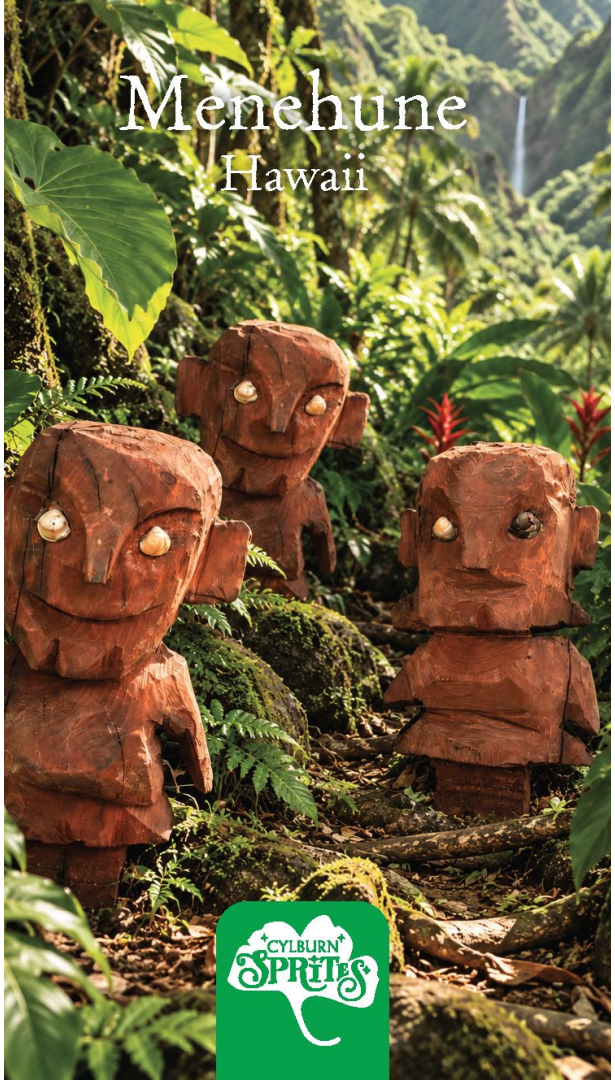
Greenman
Great Britan

For centuries, the Green Man has peered from buildings and gardens, his face emerging from leaves—a symbol of nature's wildness and renewal.
His spirit echoes Robin Goodfellow, or Puck, a mischievous woodland sprite who plays tricks and helps or hinders humans.

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Carved from White Oak, a tree long associated with strength and endurance in English tradition. Its great spreading limbs shelter countless forms of life, making the oak a fitting home for the Green Man—where tree and spirit become one.

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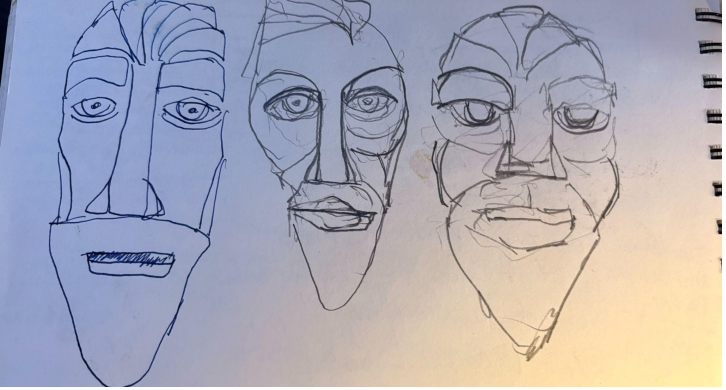
Menehune
Hawaii

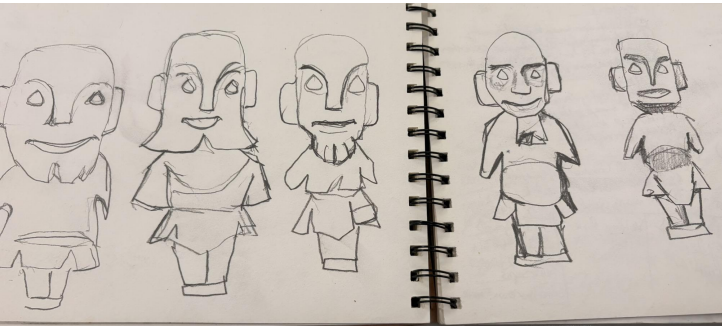
A mysterious people said to live deep in the forests and hidden valleys. Known as skilled builders and craftspeople, legends tell of them working together at night to construct fishponds, roads, temples and other remarkable structures—often completing their work before sunrise.

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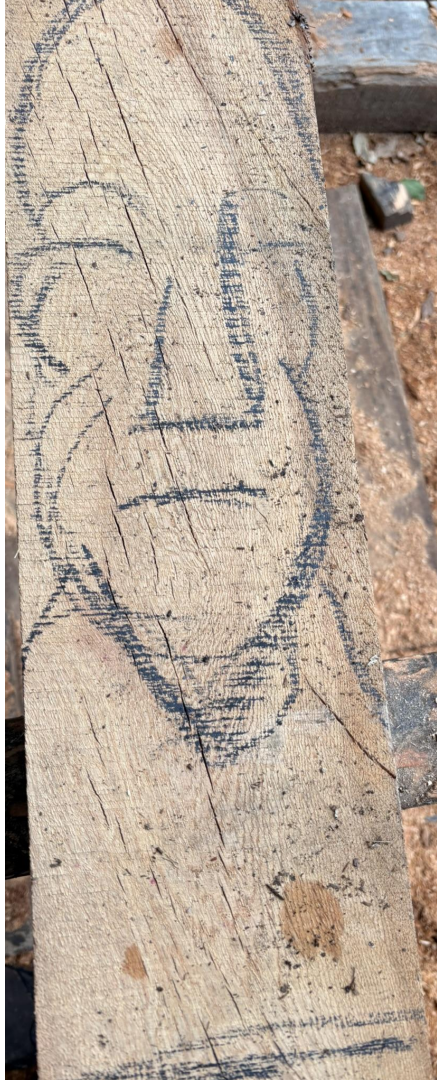
Carved from cedar, whose warm red tones and flowing grain recall koa, one of Hawai i's most treasured native woods. Both woods are valued for their beauty and distinctive character, making each carving unique.

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Green Man



















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IDLE HAND

STUDIO