

FRAGMENTS OF MEMORY

Wood Veneer Art by Michael Farro

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY



Michael Farro was born in Bobruisk, Belarus. He studied at MIT in Moscow and earned a Ph.D. in Economics. He works as a computer programmer and has also taught computer science at Boston University.

Alongside his technical career, Farro has developed an artistic practice in marquetry, creating narrative panels from natural wood veneer. His work explores memory, history, and human experience through carefully structured compositions shaped by the color, grain, and texture of wood.

He lives in Massachusetts with his wife.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work explores memory, history, and pivotal human experiences through the medium of wood veneer. Each panel is constructed from individually cut pieces, where natural color and grain replace traditional brushwork.

I am interested in moments that define people — loss, resilience, connection, and transformation. Many of my works draw from Jewish history and personal memory, bridging past and present through a structured, expressive visual language.

Marquetry, traditionally associated with decorative craft, becomes in my work a narrative medium capable of conveying complex emotional and historical themes.

Madonna

Size: 18 x 24 inches



This work explores themes of motherhood, protection, and continuity. The figure is presented not as a traditional religious icon, but as a universal image of care and human connection. The composition emphasizes quiet strength and emotional presence through simplified forms and contrasting tones of wood.

October 7

Size: 18 x 24 inches



This panel reflects the emotional impact of the events of October 7. The composition captures a moment of shock, fear, and disorientation, using fragmented forms and strong contrast to convey tension and instability. The work addresses both personal and collective trauma.

October 7 (Second Panel)

Size: 18 x 24 inches



Another version of the same theme.

War

Size: 18 x 24 inches



This work addresses the broader condition of conflict and its human consequences. The composition focuses on emotional tension rather than literal depiction, using contrast and structure to convey anxiety, disruption, and instability.

Yom Kippur in Warsaw Ghetto, 1939

Size: 18 x 18 inches



Inspired by historical memory, this work depicts a moment of prayer under extreme conditions. The composition emphasizes inner concentration and spiritual resilience, reflecting dignity and faith in the face of hardship.

Homeless

Size: 24 x 18 inches



This work addresses vulnerability and social invisibility. The isolated figure emphasizes fragility and emotional distance, highlighting the tension between presence and neglect in contemporary society.

The Weekly Torah Portion

Size: 24 x 18 inches



This work reflects the tradition of shared reading, interpretation, and dialogue around the weekly Torah portion. The composition focuses on human exchange and spiritual attention, using simplified forms and carefully balanced structure to evoke concentration, continuity, and communal memory.

Caprice No. 24

Size: 18 x 18 inches



Inspired by musical structure, this work translates rhythm and movement into visual form. The composition balances precision and expressiveness, reflecting both control and emotional intensity.

Dancers

Size: 18 x 18 inches



This work explores rhythm, movement, and emotional connection through the interaction of two figures. The composition emphasizes balance, motion, and expressive silhouette, transforming dance into a visual dialogue shaped by contrast and the natural tones of wood.