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Natural Geometry

“The shapes, I just can’t get over the shapes,” says **Jason Middlebrook**, referring to the trees he used for his latest works.

“Sometimes I think the wood is so pretty that it’s hard to make art on it.”

Although he has transformed the planks and slabs of timber into painting-sculpture hybrids for “A Break from Content,” his first solo show at **Dodge Gallery**, November 19 through December 23, Middlebrook allows the grain of the wood and the contours of the trees to dominate his creations. Extrapolating from the natural lines of his raw material, the artist adds color judiciously to amplify its inherent qualities.

“I’m returning to abstraction instead of loading them up with narrative,” he says of pieces like *Once again a version of nature through my eyes*, 2011, right. “It doesn’t seem to work as well when I try to tell a story on them.” -MD

