

PRESS RELEASE

Two Inseparable Panels: Michael Farro's Marquetry Response to October 7 and the War That Followed

Traditional craft, contemporary tragedy — two wooden panels preserve memory and confront division.

Artist **Michael Farro** has completed a diptych of marquetry panels responding to the atrocities of October 7 and the devastation of the war that followed. The first panel, *October 7*, depicts chaos, with forms and colors that evoke fire — not literal flames, but the burning memory of violence. The second, *War*, shows a father fallen, his child beside him in grief — the intimate devastation left in the wake of violence. Seen together, they are inseparable: each tells only half the truth.

"In our world, people try to choose sides," Farro says. "Some remember only the atrocities of October 7, others see only the suffering that followed. Both halves of the story matter.

Together these panels force the viewer to hold both truths at once — the horror of the attack and the universal suffering of war. Only then does the full picture emerge."

The works are also a reminder that problems cannot be solved through killing or humiliation — such actions only return in terrible ways. Instead, the panels invite viewers to consider that every human life, whatever its context, is better spent creating, raising, and building than destroying. Farro created the panels using **marquetry** — an almost forgotten art in which images are formed entirely from thin slices of wood veneer. Each veneer, sourced from forests across the Earth, carries its own natural beauty and grain, reminding us that even fragile materials can hold lasting testimony.

"In a time of digital speed and short memory, I wanted to use a medium that requires slowness, patience, and respect for natural material," he explains. "Marquetry becomes not just technique, but a way of insisting that memory deserves care."

"Art cannot end violence," Farro reflects, "but it can bear witness. These panels are not arguments, they are testimonies. They ask us to pause, to remember, and to see what we might otherwise refuse to see."

About the Artist

Michael Farro is a marquetry artist working in Massachusetts. His works combine traditional techniques with contemporary themes, using natural veneers from around the world. Each piece reflects on memory, humanity, and deep emotions — while reviving the enduring beauty of this craft.

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