

Bike Forest

By Will Kimmell

I am originally from Atlanta, Ga, and came to Greensboro in 2009 to study Peace and Conflict studies at Guilford. Now I am a sculpture major and Peace and Conflict Studies minor, and (after some time off to work in Georgia and South Carolina) I'll be finishing up my undergraduate degree in the spring of 2015. I started building things when I was in Boy Scouts (especially during my Eagle Scout project), and I was fortunate to learn the basics of frontier construction while interning for the Forest Service during the summer of 2010. I changed my academic concentration to sculpture at Guilford in the fall of 2013 after realizing that I both love shaping the physical world, but need disciplined instruction to become a competent, skilled, and successful artist. On top of my sculpture major, I have taken blacksmithing at John C. Cambell Folk School (a wonderful craft school in Western North Carolina), and I am excited to attend GTCC next year for a welding certification. I am planning to pursue both traditional blacksmithing and contemporary metal working after graduation (which will require years as an apprentice under a master craftsman), and someday I would love to open my own commercial/artisan metal studio. All of that said, this bike rack was my first commission metal piece, and I could not be more grateful for the opportunity to have my first work displayed for and used by Greensboro residents. I love this city and consider it my adopted home. I truly feel indebted to the Greensboro community for the support I've received during my time here as a student, and my dream of becoming a skilled artist is largely motivated by my desire to give back to the people and places in the city that have done so much to shape my life.