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## Rainbow in the Clouds

*By Simone Paterson*



**Artist Statement:** I was meditating in my favorite woodland spot when I heard the wind pick up. While headed back towards the house, the howl began. A freight train ripping through the valley. I sped up and, with my front door in sight, I heard an almighty CRACK. A wave of green debris washed over me. I did not stop or turn my head, just screamed, SAVE ME, and kept on running. Safely inside, I saw that the wind had knocked over a colossal tree. I had narrowly escaped severe injury. My husband cut the wood slices from this fallen tree that I have transformed into a spectrum of colors to represent our internal chakra system. The gourds form the center of these spheres of energy. Life can end at any moment, and it is best to appreciate everything even if we perceive it as unfavorable; there is a "Rainbow in the clouds." (Dr. Maya Angelou).

**Artist Biography:** Born and educated in Australia and living in the American South, Dr. Simone Paterson is an artist who works at the crossroads of craft, creative technologies, and spirituality. She has a particular interest in how energy flows throughout our bodies and within machine systems and firmly believes that making and viewing art can significantly contribute to our health and well-being. The location of her studio in an old log cabin (Caterdell Cabin) in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia exerts an influence on her contemporary art production. Her solo exhibitions with diverse media, technology, and textiles applications have included showings at A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, U.S.A., The Taubman Museum of Art, Virginia U.S.A, and a residency at ArtSpace Sydney, Australia. Paterson is a retired Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Studies in Creative Technologies, and past Chair of Studio at the School of Visual Arts, and was a member of the Executive Committee of Human-Centered Design graduate program at Virginia Tech, U.S.A.