

# "The Ploy-Protecting the Young"



## Killdeer

10"x21"x21"

Black Oak Burl

In nature, many animals have defensive strategies to protect their young. One of the most widely viewed scenes in nature is the Killdeer who feigns a broken wing to distract humans or predators from their nest. Named after its distinct high pitched call, the Killdeer's territory ranges across the United States from north to south and east to west.

The black oak burl's swirling grain pattern was a critical element of combining this concept (The Ploy) with this unique piece of wood. The carved oak burl replicates the patterns found in stone and gravel, where in nature, the

Killdeer sometimes lay their eggs in camouflage. Hidden in the sculpture are the eggs and chick, which are typically laid in an open scratch area with the chicks leaving the nest area immediately after birth.

Within the sculpture, the Killdeer's Ploy creates the movement to take you away, but the rocks in their declining design and negative space draw you to discover the nest in the scratch.

## Exhibitions and Awards

2003 Trinidad National Fine Art Exhibition, 2nd Place Overall Show, Juror: David Leffel

2003 54th Wind River National Art Exhibition, Bird Art Award

2006 Oakland Museum, The Art of Seeing-Nature Revealed through Illustration