

# Selina Littler

There was a period in time when I worked mainly with natural materials, building sculpture from mud, rocks, sticks, hog casing, cotton, leaves, dead bugs and a desiccated bat, maybe a skeleton of an owl. I made imagery that was biographical. Although abstract, it related directly to my life. The spiral stick swirl is symbolic of obsession, fragility, and being bound to a cycle; the double arched piece is about letting go of control, allowing trust to seep in, and giving it up to the world to take care of.

There were many of us who grew up on the ranch. I was nine when we moved out of the city and into the desert. We played in cactus, were chased by bulls and javelina, thrown off horses, bottle-fed baby goats and sheep. We were unaware of the rattlesnakes in the bushes, breathed packrat dust, stepped on rusty nails, climbed on and fell off of boulders head first, climbed into bed only to get stung by a scorpion, swam in green scum ponds with broken glass and dead animals at the bottom, stepped on Colorado river toads (by accident), were chased by adults after spying on them through windows, walked into barbed wire fences in the pitch black of night, had our heads bashed into snow forts we'd made ourselves to hide behind after throwing stone-laced snow balls at cars that drove by, swung from windmills fifty feet high, watched filmmakers make their pseudo-porn scenes in the washes, took in stray dogs. Those dogs are long gone, some people too. I left in my early twenties and came back in my early thirties to raise our son, Nicolas. There may not have been as many kids when he lived here but I think he'd agree there would have been no better place to grow up, close to nature, with its volatile beauty all around. Who could not be strongly influenced by Rancho Linda Vista, manifested in the many paintings, drawings, poetry, writings, plays, choreography, photography, sculpture, and lives of those who have been here, spent time here, or just passed through this place?

Stick Swirl  
manzanita branches with hog casing

Double Arch  
manzanita branches with hog casing