

PENLAND GALLERY

MORGAN HILL

Penland, NC

WOOD | Sculpture and jewelry

Penland Affiliation | Penland Core Fellow 2015-2017, former Penland Staff

Artist Bio | Morgan Hill is a sculptor and jewelry designer whose work draws on a wide range of aesthetic and conceptual influences from 90's pop-culture, cult films and costume design to her Southern, Christian upbringing and experiences as the only female child in an extended family of farmers in Arkansas. Her longing to break the silence surrounding culturally censored topics drives her to create work on themes of death, abuse, depression and suicide, as well as their counterparts of rebirth, healing and empowerment. On the lighter side, her jewelry brand *Bad Habits by Morgan Hill* celebrates the pleasure of excess and indulged desires.

Morgan's art education began at the Memphis College of Art where she focused on drawing. She also studied interior design and earned a BFA in Woodworking and Furniture Design from University of Arkansas. She was a Core Fellow at the Penland School of Craft from 2015-2017 where she worked with renowned artists and studied techniques ranging from chainsaw carving to metalwork to neon tube bending. In 2018, she was a ITE Windgate Fellow at the Center for Art in Wood. Her work is carried in galleries across the US and internationally. She creates her work in Spruce Pine, NC in a studio shared with four of her favorite colleagues.

Artist Statement | *Bad Habits by Morgan Hill* embodies the moment when you are about to have too much of a good thing. Like all indulgences, buying and wearing jewelry is a burst of excitement and joy but it holds the potential for a desire-fueled obsession. Some of my collections celebrate literal vices, others imply indulgence through color and form. Either way, *Bad Habits* sees jewelry as a way to fulfill an urge. It's that little something you need to feel good. Or, maybe you don't, but you want it anyway. Although nearly all my work relates to the human body, *Bad Habits* is the side of my creative practice that exclusively focuses on jewelry and wearable art.

Penland School of Craft | Penland Gallery & Visitors Center
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