

# The kodama project.

*Respect and love for the one-legged ones. Collective awareness. Comfort and solidity of sacred geometry.*

*Decay, graffiti, breakdown of tissue, transfer of energy.*

*kodama*: noun

1. Spirits from Japanese folklore that inhabit trees.

My kodama are small wheel thrown and altered porcelain creatures that are installed in trees. Decorated with hand carved eyes and geometric patterns, they have been placed on Nantucket Island, on Fisher's Island, in Maine, and in Iceland.

The project is ongoing and evolving.

The kodama are small and some are quite high up in the trees. Not everyone notices them. They don't have an immediate visual impact. If they do get noticed they will be intriguing. They will provoke questions. My intent is to provoke curiosity and dialog with connection to the natural world. I want to put my small sculptures (my tags) into as many trees, in as many places as possible. I would love to mass them (even if only for a brief installation) in some of the really old majestic trees in Big Sur or other places famous for oldgrowth.

Some inspirations for making the kodama:

The feeling of being watched while alone in the woods. Part hair-raising fear, part the sensations of thinking of your lover, sister, father, child, friend, just before your phone lets you know they are trying to reach you. None of the usual 5 senses yet triggered but you KNOW what is coming. The brushing up against your consciousness by the bigger all-encompassing consciousness of which each individual awareness is only a tiny puffball manifestation. As if we are all part of a huge mycelium complex of awareness but have lost the connection to the whole.

p.s. if you see a kodama, take a photo and share it. Don't forget to tag [@nellvanvorst](#) and #kodomaproject.