

**Allison Funk**

Staunton, VA

[etsy.com/shop/allisonfunkart](https://www.etsy.com/shop/allisonfunkart)

Carving into a block of plywood or a sheet of linoleum is how I choose to express myself. After previously working predominantly in sculpture, I began printmaking in the Fall of 2013, before graduating from The College of William & Mary, and immediately developed a preference for the complex process.

Printmaking, in its graphic nature, has changed the way in which I see my surroundings. In recent years, I've become intensely aware and appreciative of uniquely formed shadow and light contrasts. I, in turn, capture these striking moments that I might have never acknowledged previously. My particular interest is in shadows cast by natural light. The light is fleeting and the shadow that is cast, depending on the subject, may never be the same again. I create prints from these typically ordinary sights, with the shadow cast in the spotlight, revealing the allure of the ignored or commonly unseen.

Human emotion, similar to that of natural light, is always in flux. My work is inspired by bouts of depression, anxiety, sickness, feelings of isolation, abandonment, disconnectedness, and insecurities—all of which are often shadowed from the rest of the world. We have all experienced these in varying intensities and lengths. The act of carving and the transformation of the process is therapeutic. My block prints individually represent a time of intense emotion and provide the release needed to expel or deal with these struggles and turn them into works of art that are symbolic, deep, and relatable. Despite the negativity of the motive behind my prints, the goal is always to find the positive light in each matter; or rather, allow the beauty of the shadow to be seen.