



BETWEEN

PAST

“My worthy friend, gray are all theories,
And green alone Life's golden tree”

—
Mephistopheles
Goethe's Faust

EIDEN SPILKER

AND

FUTURE



BROWN
Brown Arts Institute

PERELMAN
ARTS District



I hope these words find you unburdened untroubled
Though sorrowful times these are indeed
If life's a stage and plot keeps you leveled
You've found intermission, a moment of peace

But 'tis not retreat, nor escape, nor ignoring
For where have we been and where are we going?
Questions linger through the silence
Calm subsumed with background violence

Woe to the meek when greed is virtue
Though surely when all's said and done
Many have always been ruled by few
There's nothing new under the sun

Or so the story often goes
Folly faces truth sublime
But we are destined in repose
When human deeds are made divine

We must have stumbled, we must have faltered
For things are not as they should be
With faith that's blind we failed to alter
And should belongs to victory

Meanwhile, off stage, trouble's brewing
Contradictions all consuming
Worldly forces, will to power
What will mark this solemn hour?

Who are you? What do you stand for?
Not just for posterity
Look around, look where we're going
There are no ends, only the means

'Between Past and Future' began with a historic elm tree cut down on Brown's main green. Initially an exploration of what it means to consider this tree as a 'historic' object, the body of work quickly expanded into a broader examination of the shape and narrative of history that the tree fit into. What followed was a renegotiation with the direction of history, its meaning, and the specific contours of the past that come to explain the present and define the possibilities of the future.

Eiden Spilker (b. 1996) is a Providence, RI-based artist working in wood and found materials. He holds BAS in Architecture and Visual Arts and is the 'Maker in Residence' at the Brown Design Workshop where he strives to strengthen collective craft knowledge. His work explores the tension, and often disconnect, between material record and meaning. Using primarily salvaged and reclaimed wood, he investigates the historic testimony of objects, asking how material memory can inform the way we construct narratives of the past.