

# Joshua M. Torbick

4150 Texas Street #7 San Diego, CA 92104 | [www.joshuatorbickfurniture.com](http://www.joshuatorbickfurniture.com) | [jtorbick@gmail.com](mailto:jtorbick@gmail.com) | 603-828-1430

---

## Artist Statement

My current body of work is an exploration of our presumptions of body position, and how our orientation relates to function and comfort. Most people expect to be comfortable in their own homes and thus expect to be able to cultivate their own domestic environment in an artful and utilitarian way. Most of the tasks we perform as part of simple domestic living require a standing body position. After the loss of a leg resulting from a motorcycle accident my awareness of this reality was sharpened considerably.

I am interested in how physical differences might preclude some individuals from fully engaging in functional domestic activity. In pursuit of this objective I have been exploring how I might help restore an individual's sense of independence and inclusion. This is achieved by creating furniture objects that provide the proper support, while still feeling like furniture, not a medical device.

Through this investigation I have created functional furniture forms, providing the specific shapes of containment and support needed to allow a person with an above the knee amputation the ability to stand and perform normal domestic tasks. I believe it is important for the user of furniture like this to feel the piece of furniture is purpose built, and not feel like an adaptation of an existing "normal" piece of furniture. Furniture can, and should, be designed and built from the very beginning to be functional to its user.