A LADDER TO THE SKY: Megan Zimmerman
They are everywhere, strewn along the street and parks and inside buildings and buses; signs direct, order and call our attention to noteworthy causes. Their purpose is to state clearly, through symbols or diagrams, a message which we intercept and immediately understand.

A Ladder To The Sky...

A ladder hangs in mid-air, seemingly floating above the ground, scaling to the heavens. Two steps frame an arrow sign pointing up; you begin your ascent. The steps, which were easy to climb at first become increasingly more difficult - the distance between the risers is growing the higher you climb. Finally, you reach the point where you can go no further yet the ladder continues infinitely up. Your goal, the destination of the ladder, is unachievable; you must settle for what is humanly possible and return down the ladder.

Both the ladder rails and steps are carved out of wood conforming to the shape of your hand. On one side, the rails have been inscribed with a crescent-like depression for your thumb to rest as your hand glides up the ladder. The other side has been given an egg-shaped curvature that fits snugly against your palm during your descent. The different experience of moving up and down the ladder is captured in its form. Wood was chosen as the medium to contrast the harsh industrial feel of the silos. Two thin metal rods, barely visible, serve as the connecting device between ladder and the adjacent structure. Four metal plates hidden within the structure secure the ladder’s suspension. Touching neither the ground nor the structure directly, the ladder appears to hover mysteriously in the air.