

ARTS

'Wood as Muse' now on display at the Art Complex Museum

BY MARTHA HIMES RIEGELHAUPT
CLIPPER CONTRIBUTOR

"Wood as Muse," the new exhibition at the Art Complex Museum, is a rich variety of approaches. The 11 artists in the exhibit all bring different formats and concepts to the "Wood as Muse" theme, from household objects to found wood to lumber scraps.

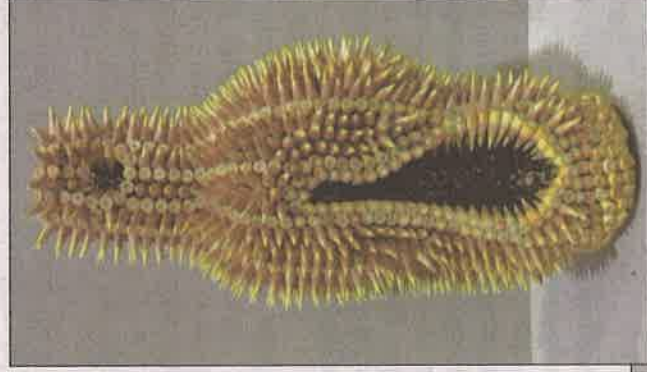
Guest co-curators Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein chose artists that find their inspiration in found wood pieces, but use the material in radically different ways.

Beginning the exhibit are Breon Dunigan's "trophy heads," which use upholstered found fabric and repurposed chair legs to replicate mounted wild animal heads. While they are amusing, her pieces also bring to mind the hunted and the hunter, a theme that winds through many of the exhibition's works.

Next are Martin Ulman's powerful dioramas from his Holocaust series. They utilize wood reclaimed from synagogue benches and household objects such as sewing machines, items that would have been left behind

by Jewish concentration camp victims.

"The issue of 'Never Forget' is a true issue," Ulman



He views his dioramas as a teaching tool, "without the dead bodies."



inspiration for Jennifer Maestre's sculptural creations. Maestre employs pencils as beads, drilling a hole in the unsharpened end and using cord and peyote stitch to sew them together. The resulting texture is paradoxically both softly amorphous and sharply needled.

Mike Wright, on the other hand, is the hunter. "I am constantly looking for wood," she said. She views her found wood sculptures a little like archaeology, in that she is trying to preserve a culture of old painted wood and chairs.

"The peeling paint... allows us to recognize the influence of its past," she said in an artist statement. Her Still Life series translates the

paintings of Provincetown artists into three dimensions.

Andy Moerlein reinterprets Chinese stonework in oak. His work explores the sentimental way landscapes can figure prominently in memories. The newest of his pieces on exhibition, "Unknown Places, So Familiar," is his attempt at recreating a landscape from his childhood. "We put a value on names and we put a value on things and it doesn't mean anything, until one day it does," he said.

Amy Archambault was inspired by the work she has been doing on her home and the materials used in renovation. Her pieces include a shooting gallery, with targets created from moulding scraps and bulls eye corner blocks. The weapons are mounted

Continued on page 9

Now Accepting New Clients



Jan Butterworth
617-688-5813

An Alternative Solution to Boarding

- In-home Daily Care of your animals of all types
- Dog Walking & Playtime
- Post-surgical care offered: injections, bandage changes, meds & fluids given

Assoc. & Bachelors of Science in Animal Science

Caring for Animals in Duxbury Since 1985



Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Duxbury Clipper

9

ARTS

Continued from page 8

caulking guns.

The puppets built by Pat Keck are vestiges of her childhood hobby building puppet shows with her brother. In addition to her physical puppets on exhibit, her remarkable marionettes are also on display in a short film "Night and Day", made in collaboration with Peter Anthony.

Reclaimed antique wood boxes, toys and doll parts form the basis for Vanessa German's sculptures, as well as "pain, rage, cloth, twine, the inclination to just rise up, and fly..." Her work deals with racism and slavery and its legacy. Her use of everyday household objects and toys brings home the daily fears and indignations created by racism, which are more explicitly described in her materials lists.

Donna Dodson's large standing bird icons explore the link between humans and nature, and create a female religious iconography. Her dark walnut condor "Conquistador" reminds the viewer of the stern, ominous tribunals of the Spanish Inquisition. "Turkey Mother" wears a head-dress evocative of a priest's



cowl. Dodson works with the natural cracks and coloration in the wood to determine the structure of her pieces.

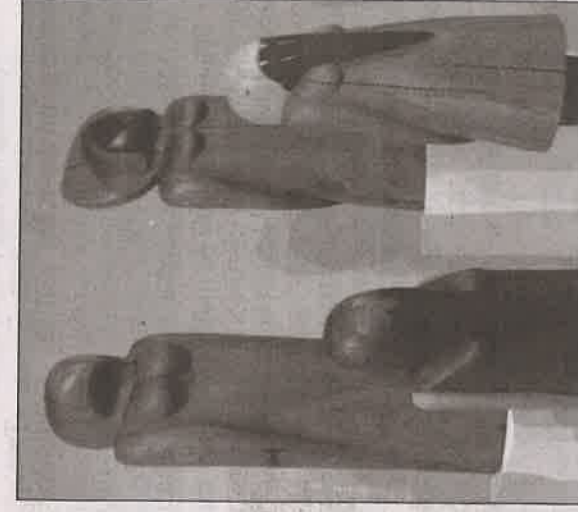
In the grain of a cross-section of wood, Jason Middlebrook imagines the ways man uses the natural environment. He paints rhythmic lines on the plank that emulate the grain, outline and shape of the wood, but also create an architectural or geometric structure. "Nine White Paintings" resembles nine white fortresses; "We Dug Our Own Holes" resembles a maze or office cubicle farm.

Rather than sculpting from one piece of wood, Thomas Beale takes thousands of slices of found wood and piec-



es them together into one large, nebulous sculpture. In works like "Untitled" the viewer must look closely to see the seams. In "Tramp," however, the technique allows him to create a harlequin of differently-patterned wood pieces.

The variety of works in the exhibition illuminate the diversity of wood and its ability to fulfill almost any human vision. From puppetry to architecture to sculpture to canvas, wood is a universal medium and muse.



First in Beacon Hill,
now in Duxbury!

THEODORE
& COMPANY

INTERIOR DESIGN