

BIOGRAPHY

CAPRICE PIERUCCI

Born: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1960
The artist works and resides in Austin, Texas.

EDUCATION

1989 M.F.A. School of Visual Arts, New York, New York
1983 B.F.A. Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

SELECTED HONORS

2010 People's Choice Award, Purchase Award, The People's Gallery, Austin City Hall, Austin, Texas
2010 Nomination for "2010 Artist of the Year 3D," Austin Visual Arts Association, Austin, Texas
2004 Winner, *International Art Waves: Art and Design Competition*, Coevorden, Netherlands
2001 Excellence in Teaching Award, Austin Community College, Austin, Texas
1995 Juror's Award, *Fyberspace*, National Exhibition, Galeria Mesa, Mesa, Arizona
1994 Second Place, *Unbound: An Exhibition of Three Dimensional Fiber National Competition*, Fort Washington, Maryland
1992 *Landscapes*, Houston International Festival, DiverseWorks, Houston Grant Award, Houston, Texas

ART EXPERIENCE

2011-Present Senior Lecturer, Fibers, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
2003 & 2006 Lecturer, Sculpture, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
1998-2011 Lecturer, 3D Design, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
1996-2011 Art Instructor, Drawing I & II, Design I & II, Sculpture, Life Drawing, Austin Community College, Austin, Texas

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 *Caprice Pierucci: Dream State*, Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas
2014 *New Work*, Paia Contemporary, Maui, Hawaii
2013 *New Work*, Diehl Gallery, Jackson, Wyoming
2013 *Rhythm and Grain*, Gremillion & Co. Fine Art Inc., Houston, Texas
2011 *Royal Grain*, Gremillion & Co. Fine Art Inc., Dallas, Texas
2006 *Eternal Rhythm*, Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas
2001 Solo Exhibition, Cloyde Snook Gallery, Adams State College, Alamosa, Colorado

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014 *Collective Chemistry: Sixteenth Annual Holiday Group Show*, Davis Gallery, Austin, Texas
2014 *A Panoramic View*, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, Texas
2013 *In-Depth Texas Sculpture Group*, Art Car Museum, Houston, Texas
2012 *Scale: A Gathering of Sculptors*, Curated by Phillip King, Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas
2010 *Craft Texas 2010*, Juried Exhibition, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, Texas
2009 *The Great Texas Sculpture Roundup*, Beeville Art Museum, Beeville, Texas
2007 *Texas Rising, a Survey of Texas Contemporary Sculpture*, University of Texas, San Antonio, Texas
2006 *Wave of Light*, Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas
2004 *International Art Waves*, Art and Design Competition, Coevorden, Netherlands
2003 *Bold Expressions*, Sacramento Fine Arts Center, Sacramento, California

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Texas State University, Education Building, Austin, Texas
Deloitte Ranch, Dallas, Texas
The Austonian, Austin, Texas
Horizon Bank, Houston, Texas
Ernst & Young, Dallas, Texas
Rockefeller Collection, Charleston, West Virginia

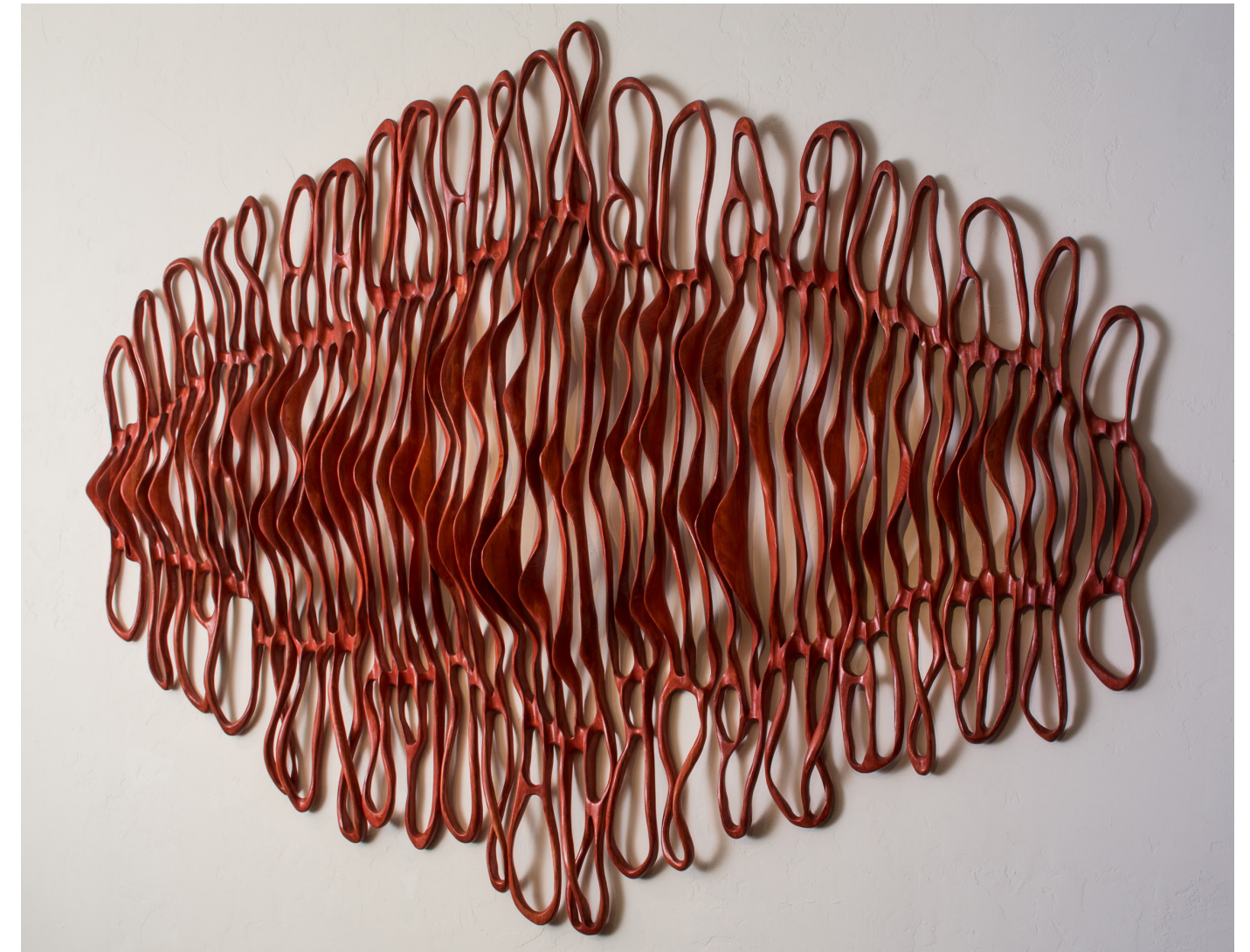
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Full Bloom Cascade (detail), 2015, birch, plywood and pine, 126 x 72 x 12 inches, collection of the artist

CAPRICE PIERUCCI

DREAM STATE



Front Cover: *Red Dawn Cascade*, 2013, pine, 69 x 60 x 6 inches, collection of the artist, photo credit: David Agnello



Art Museum of Southeast Texas
500 Main Street
Beaumont, Texas 77701
(409) 832-3432 · www.amset.org



Art Museum of Southeast Texas
January 17 - April 12, 2015



Red Dawn Cascade (detail), 2013, pine, 69 x 60 x 6 inches, collection of the artist, photo credit: David Agnello

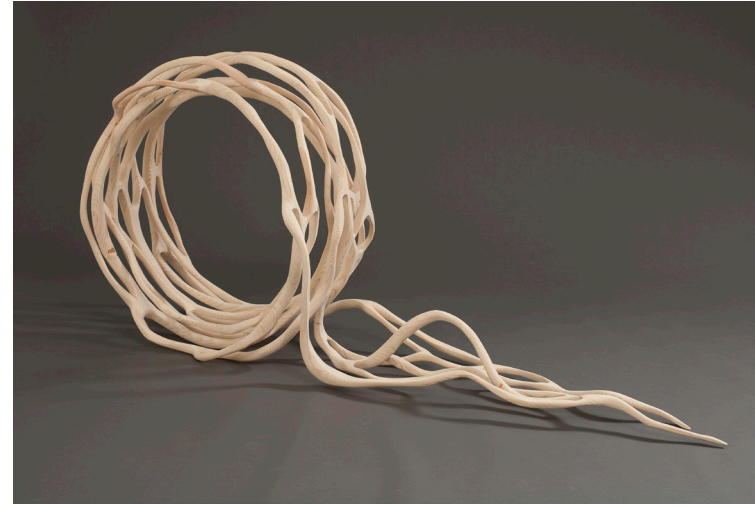
CAPRICE PIERUCCI DREAM STATE

January 17 - April 12, 2015

In today's world, there are no limits to the subject or medium an artist might choose to employ, concurrently building upon and pushing beyond historical art traditions. I am constantly amazed at the technicality of contemporary art and eagerly look forward to what tomorrow holds. That being said, there is something raw and invigorating when you encounter artists who have mastered a tried and true medium and have become one with their creative process. Caprice Pierucci is just that. Her facility as an artist and keen eye yields monumental, elegant sculptures made of wood that surpass our perceived notions of the material and make you question what exactly it is you are seeing. How can wood dance in organic, lyrical waves that bend and fold like water running over a rocky river bed? Pierucci's wood forms are

dynamic and seem to pulse with life and energy while retaining the appearance of their original source.

I went to Austin in October of 2014 to visit with Pierucci at her home and studio. One of the first things I remember was my senses awakening as I saw, smelled and felt the piles of sawdust around the room. Directly to my right was a large sculpture hanging on the wall. I walked right up to it and awed unashamedly, immediately bombarding Caprice with questions about her creative process. She patiently explained her method, which involves building up and grinding down wood forms that she later interlocks and weaves together like fabric, creating immense works stretching upwards of 80 inches in size. Caprice seemed so at ease when handling the wood as she laced together a few test pieces for me. Her natural approach proves the synergistic relationship she has developed between her idea and mastery of medium. The result of this relationship is an aesthetically sophisticated and thought-provoking work of art that plays



Dream State (detail from cycle), 2015, pine, 30 x 68 x 15 inches, collection of the artist, photo credit: Thomas Jack Hilton

with space, light and shadow in a highly original manner.

Caprice grew up surrounded by art and cites her late mother, Louise Holeman Pierucci, as an important influence on her career. Louise Pierucci was a significant artist, recognized for her innovative fiber works and expertise in weaving. She was very involved with the fiber arts world in Pittsburgh (her home) during the 1960s and 1970s, and was at the forefront of a revival of the medium. Louise instructed fiber arts at Carnegie Mellon University, was integral in bringing the Handweavers Guild of America to Pittsburgh, and was a founding member of the Fiber Ten (a group of fiber artists that organized an exhibition at the Carnegie Museum of Art).

After graduating with her B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon in 1983, Caprice moved to Austin to join her mother (Louise moved to Austin from Pittsburgh in 1980). Louise encouraged Caprice to pursue her studies and career as an artist, and the two often collaborated on fiber works. These early ventures led Caprice to pursue other organic media; she began by making "trap" like objects of paper and wood, creating small, "shell" shaped pieces, and carving wood, which eventually opened her eyes to connecting wood forms and creating large scale sculptures. Caprice's mother was a constant supporter, fellow artist and voice of encouragement, pushing the young artist to attend graduate school in New York and further explore her artistic abilities in fiber and three dimensional worlds. Like her mother, Caprice is also an educator and currently teaches fibers at Texas State University.

The sculptures presented in this exhibition evidence these formative influences through Caprice's process of weaving and interlocking wood forms, creating a sinuous wood "tapestry."

It is always an honor to work with an artist like Caprice, who does not hesitate to push the boundaries of a traditional medium and explore what lies ahead. We thank you for your support of this exhibition, and hope that you will join us in welcoming Caprice to AMSET!

Sarah Beth Wilson
Curator of Exhibitions and Collections



Vessel I, 2014, pine, 84 x 16 x 9 inches, collection of the artist