

ADVERTISING

Customize your content

also available by e-mail  
also available by RSS



Classifieds | NWsource | Subscribe | Contact Us | Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Jump to >> Weather | Traffic | Mariners | Seahawks | Sonics | Forums | Calendar

## Arts & Entertainment

search

- NEWS
- Local
- Neighborhoods
- Sports
- Nation/World
- Business
- A&E
- Movies
- TV & Radio
- Dining
- Music
- Local Bands
- Books
- Video Games
- Theater/Fine Arts
- Theater Calendar
- Art Shows
- Art Museums
- Auditions
- Class. Calendar
- On the Radio
- People
- A&E Wire
- Lifestyle
- NW Outdoors
- Photos/Reprints
- Special Reports

### THEATER/FINE ARTS

Friday, December 2, 2005

## 'Collection' is fresh and inventive

By REGINA HACKETT  
SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER ART CRITIC

**Jason Wood** collects trees and pieces of trees fallen in forests and parks. As his models, they are both the beginning of his process and the aspiration at the end of it.

A recent graduate of the University of Washington's master of fine arts program, he manipulates wood products into deft simulations of their original identities.

Sometimes he cuts a sheet of plywood into a stack of small squares. After rounding their edges, he pastes them together and sands them down. The end result is a tree whose voluptuous splendor stops you cold. Sometimes he starts with a tree, saws off each end and goes to work on the trunk and branches, lopping off and adding on. One of these trunks leans against the wall in the gallery, its surface studded with holes filled with darker woods, circles instead of rings for an abortive kind of time line.

Is his work the equivalent of turning a stump into a leg? Well, no. It's more like turning fossil fuel into dinosaurs. His sculptures have Fred Astaire's grace and Quasimodo's vulnerability. There's nothing quite like them.

Wood's sculptures are part of "Collections" at Crawl Space, a cooperative artist gallery on lower Capitol Hill that has survived to enjoy a second anniversary. Young artists unable to penetrate or uninterested in commercial galleries created and continue to run this alternative venue, which has produced some of the more innovative exhibits in the city.

Because the walls of the gallery are concrete, the artists dragged a large, white-painted wooden panel into the space so they could hang paintings and prints on it. **Diana Falchuk** commandeered it for the current exhibit and gave it the reverse of a back story.

On the surface is a forest or the outline of a forest in thick, gray/green strokes. Considering its billboard proportions, "Winter Unwrapped" is a homey sketch, fluid and oddly intimate. Had she left it alone at that point, it would have been likable enough, but she poked holes in the reality of what her drawing was trying to achieve. Thanks to gaps in the surface, we see what's underneath. Beneath the trees, their root structure is a kitsch interior, all pink circles. By portraying nature as tattered wallpaper, she brings the outside indoors and suggests its demise. Hers is a pitch-perfect Valley girl lament over lost horizons.

#### ART REVIEW COLLECTIONS

**WHERE:** Crawl Space, 504 E. Denny Way  
**WHEN:** Through Dec. 11. Hours: Saturdays-Sundays, noon-5 p.m.

#### MARKETPLACE

- Jobs
- Autos
- Shopping
- Homes
- Rentals
- Post an ad

W4 CALENDAR

Browse events

Theater

All dates

All areas

go

What's Happening

#### TOOLS

Print this E-mail this

ADVERTISING

nwsourcE

Win one month's free rent to Alley24 and a two-night stay in Vancouver, B.C.!

enter now! >>



AP: TOP HEADLINES

- Man held in bar attack dies after shootout
- Iran ends cooperation with nuke watchdog
- Violence spreads over Muhammad caricatures
- Specter believes spy program violates law
- Bomb rips through Pakistan bus, killing 13

more

MOST READ

- Nearly 2,000 inmates riot in Calif. jail
- Upstart Hawks have 'got it' won
- Go 2 Guy: TV stars give their Bowl picks at Maxim party
- French editor fired over Muhammad drawings
- High winds wreak havoc in Western Washington

more

MOST PRINTED

- Upstart Hawks have 'got it' won
- 520 Bridge reopened to traffic
- Teens putting themselves at risk online
- Iran's nuclear history, new developments
- Female and forgetful? It may not be the memory

more

MOST E-MAILED

- Upstart Hawks have 'got it' won
- Teens putting themselves at risk online
- 520 Bridge reopened to traffic
- Female and forgetful? It may not be the memory
- Army to troops: 'Avoid Marrying a Jerk'

more

POPULAR SOUNDOFFS

- Capitol Watch: Uncivil rights
- Memo to rabid Hawks fans: Get a life
- Sonics & Storm: Weigh civic needs
- Rove leads Bush on GOP campaign trail
- Salmon Plan: Phony as a lure

more

help/troubleshoot  
customize your content  
disable myPI  
your account

- COMMENTARY
- Opinion
- Columnists
- Letters
- David Horsey
- Saturday Spin
- Forums

- WHAT'S HAPPENING
- Calendar
- Movie Times
- Restaurants
- SeattleNoise

- COFFEE BREAK
- Comics & Games
- Horoscope
- TV Listings

- P-I ANYWHERE
- E-mail Newsletters
- News Alerts
- RSS/Web feeds
- PDA
- Cell Phones

#### MARKETPLACE

- Jobs
- Autos
- Homes
- Rentals
- Classifieds
- NWsource
- Shopping
- Personals
- Place an ad

ADVERTISING

**Chad Wentzel** saw Iceland from a plane in the middle of the day, light hitting glaciers and fracturing ice. In his drawing, "Iceland Must Be Beautiful," his land masses have a silky agitation as if the vellum under his brush were an Etch A Sketch and might at any moment disappear. For ice, he brushed on Epsom salts he'd dissolved in water and watched them crack as they dried into a fractured sheen.

**Todd Simeone** tips his hat to Damien Hirst's "The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living," better known as the sculpture featuring a tiger shark suspended in formaldehyde.

Simeone gives Hirst a classic American spin.

In "The Physical Impossibility of Life From the Head of Someone Dead," Simeone presents a baseball signed by Ted Williams in a Plexiglas case on a sleek cardboard stand. In a grisly coda to a great career, Williams's head was cryogenically frozen. By substituting the ball for the head, Simeone conflates a legendary public career with a dubious private end, shadowing a famous shark in the process.

**Bradley Biancardi** paints portals on canvas in oil paint. He's young and living in Seattle, but his work has an elderly English feel. If I'd heard he was 80 and lived in a cold-water London flat, I wouldn't have been surprised. **Anne Mathern's** white dove streams look like cake frosting framed. Titled "Constancy," her piece is the equivalent of a prop for a photograph. I'm hoping to like the photograph more.

**HEADLINES**

Funny, multi-talented 'Tracy + The Plastics' performances are sure to be sell-outs

Exhibit offers a peek into Seattle artist Trimpin's musical mind

In The Galleries: February

On Architecture: Meeting basic needs in style

Seattle Print Arts survey keeps the audience on its toes

Susan Dory's grids set their own rhythm, while Brian Murphy makes his flesh float

ADVERTISING

**Hard Drives**

Get free music, photos, or games when you buy a Seagate Hard Drive!  
seagate.com

**Local Flower Delivery**

Send Flowers From Local Florists in Your Area  
SuperPages.com

**Cheese Steaks In Seattle**

Authentic Philly Cheese Steaks, Hoagies, Tasty Kakes, Scrapple, more  
PhillyFevre.com

**Mortgages in SEATTLE**

Get a Low Mortgage Rate and Save. Apply Now!  
BallardMortgage.com

Buy a NWad

**Webtowns**

More headlines and info from **Capitol Hill**.

**P-I art critic Regina Hackett can be reached at 206-448-8332 or reginahackett@seattlepi.com.**

Share your own review.

▶▶ Be the first to post a comment!

Printer-friendly version

E-mail this story

Get e-mail news updates

Subscribe to the P-I

ADVERTISING

OUR AFFILIATES



Home Delivery: (206) 464-2121 or (800) 542-0820

Send comments to [newmedia@seattlepi.com](mailto:newmedia@seattlepi.com)  
©1996-2006 Seattle Post-Intelligencer  
[Terms of Service/Privacy Policy](#)