

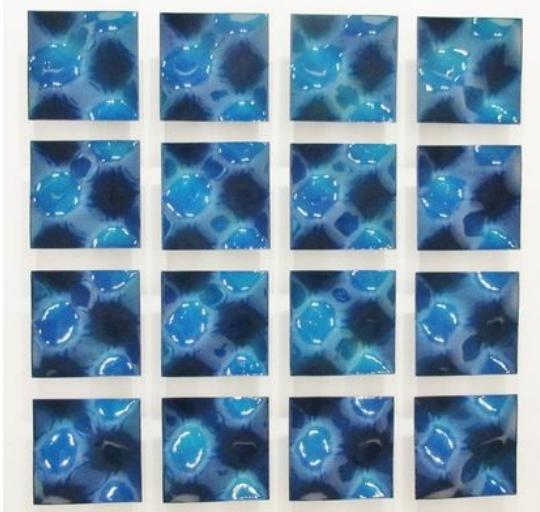
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| "Blue Waveforms" by Bernard Klevickas: steel and dye polish.

Art review: Sculptors show flair for melding grace, function

By Ron Schira -- Reading Eagle correspondent

Thursday May 28, 2015 12:01 AM

Two sculptors, Bernard Klevickas and Phil McGaughy, are presently showing their innovations at GrizzlyGrizzly Gallery in Philadelphia. The exhibit is titled "Fluid Geometries" and continues through Saturday.

Both artists have installed a small but poignant group of objects inspired by organic attributes but defiantly inanimate. The works are intelligent, quirky and curiously functional as poetic devices of contemplation.

Klevickas hails from Queens, N.Y., and will be in "River and Biota," an upcoming sculpture show at the Freyberger Gallery of Penn State Berks. He works basically with metals, many of which are milled with his own equipment.

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GrizzlyGrizzly Gallery is at 319 N. 11th St., Philadelphia. It is open Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 6 p.m., and by appointment. For additional information, visit www.grizzlygrizzly.com.

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His sectional wall sculpture "Blue Waveforms" relays an elusive synesthetic experience, whereas the material he manipulates appears to be transparent, not metallic. Through a variety of polishes and finishes, he creates an illusion of deep liquid blue.

The piece is arranged into a grid of undulating steel forms that extend a few inches from the wall and if reversed are exactly the same, like a three-dimensional sine wave, a physical palindrome.

Also notice "Untitled (form in space)." In this wall hanging kinetic sculpture, a sheet of polished and reflective steel is suspended on three prongs and looks somewhat like a wind-blown handkerchief. The prongs are mounted on a smooth armature that rotates and gyres on engineered bearings hand-machined by the artist in his own shop. Perfectly balanced, the work may be moved about and enjoyed by visitors.

Klevickas, a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, has exhibited his art throughout the United States. He has additionally worked as an art fabricator, constructing sculptures for Frank Stella and Louise Bourgeois, among others.

The sculpture of Phil McGaughy merges the organic growth of nature with the building materials and methods of construction. One example, "The Argument," is a piece of driftwood with intricate wooden scaffolding surrounding it like an architectural model.

For his plaster/wood pieces such as "Coffee Spill Islands," he gives an impression of oddly shaped white landforms cut in half for a flat-top surface. And like a geode or the rings of a tree trunk, the cross-section surprisingly displays brownish liquid coloration.

The artist elucidates: "I like to view the world as a giant collaboration between all sorts of life and non-life. A collaboration between wanting to build something and wanting to grow something."

McGaughy graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1992 and spent 25 years in the Bay Area before coming to the East Coast to attend the University of Delaware. A musician as well, he has played in many bands and released three recordings.

In contrast to critical accord that painting has exhausted all of its options, the possibilities for sculpture appear wide open. The works shown here elicit exquisite grace and strong ideas from both artists with a twist toward physics and natural science.

Email Ron Schira: weekend@readingeagle.com.



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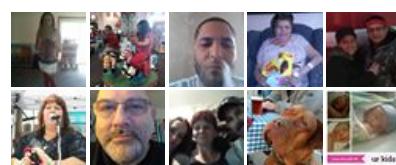
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