

The Washington Post

Sculpture Now

There's relatively little that's monumental, but much that's intriguing, in "Sculpture Now 2013," a wide-ranging show of work by members of the Washington Sculpture Group. The 27-artist selection at Honfleur Gallery, downstairs from the Rasmussen show, features such diverse materials as limestone, bamboo and plastic, and many smaller works that are wall-mounted rather than free-standing.

The piece visible from the street is Marcos Smyth's "Stump," in which copper sheets spiral from a chunk of driftwood. Such curling forms recur in other pieces, including Len Harris's "Arabesque" (wood strips), Peter Wood's "Think Ahead" (steel), Liz Lescault's "FoliasePursed" (ceramic) and Joshua DeMonte's "Arcade Coil" (an Escher-like architectural form produced by a 3D printer). There are works that have an industrial vibe, whether they're battered and rusted, like Anne Bouie's metal-and-wood "Testament #2," or sleek and futuristic, like Chris Bathgate's machined-aluminum, brass-bronze and stainless-steel "ML 622254434732323." (Is that a launch code?)

Other pieces seem ancient, at least in inspiration. Paul Steinkoenig's "Cobblestones" arrays wood slats around a large seal that must have ritual significance, while Jan Acton's "Focal" is an altar-like stone monument of concentric arcs, open at the top. Its solidity offers a piquant contrast to Frederic Crist's "Phoenix 2," a series of rectangles, seemingly pressed together, that gives bronze an illusion of squishiness. Whether exalting their materials or subverting them, these sculptors challenge expectations.

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On view through April 12 at Honfleur Gallery, 1241 Good Hope Rd. SE,
202-536-8994, www.honfleurgallery.com

This review is excerpted from a round-up review of four separate exhibitions in Washington, DC.