

## CRAFT

{ ROBERT F. LYON }

**Exhibition**

## Against the Grain: Wood Sculpture by Robert F. Lyon

*On view October 15th through December 31st  
at the Vero Beach Museum of Art*

[www.verobeachmuseum.org](http://www.verobeachmuseum.org)

ROBERT F. LYON CREATES surprising and innovative sculpture in turned wood, going beyond the usual techniques of those who turn functional bowls and forms. Rather than simply relying on the beauty of the wood, Lyon explores form and color and their ability to express beauty, fragility, memory and our connection to the earth.

As Lyon explains, "...Bringing together natural and architectural concepts with wood, I try to meld the activities of man with those of nature. Because the work, in part, celebrates the wood itself, I allow the wood to move and crack as if it has a mind of its own. I am fascinated with the idea of control—the struggle to control the uncontrollable. I try to let the process take over so that the viewer can revel in the image, form and meaning."

In his current work, Lyon attempts to blur the distinction between art and craft by expanding his conceptual ideas through the use of larger turnings in an installation format. "Installation art tends to be unconventional and

challenging, often using familiar objects placed in a different context, as an artist may respond to a particular issue through a collection/arrangement of objects," says Lyon. "In this work, which I think of as 'markers,' the objects, and their use of form and color, become signs or symbols that help 'mark' our place in nature

and the culture in which we live. This intense, though intermittent, identification with natural materials and forces causes time to dissolve—and work to become indistinguishable from play. I know when I'm working properly, everything else disappears."



*"...when I'm working properly, EVERYTHING else DISAPPEARS."*—R. F. Lyon

Born in 1952 in Queens, NY, Lyon received his M.F.A. in 1977 from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA. He taught ceramics, glass and sculpture at Louisiana State University from 1978-95 and then accepted the position of Professor and Head of the De-

partment of Art at Auburn University, AL. In 1997, Lyon was named Professor and Chair of the Department of Art at the University of South Carolina. In 2002, he relinquished his position as Chair and now teaches sculpture.

He has received numerous awards, including a Project Grant from the Southeastern College Art Conference and a Southeastern Artist Fellowship from the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.

Lyon's work has been shown in numerous venues, including the Wood Turning Center in Philadelphia, Alternative Museum in New York City, New Orleans Museum of Art, Tampa Museum of Art and Vero Beach Museum of Art.

He is represented by Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville, NC, and lives in South Carolina with his wife, artist, Ann Hubbard.

**ON VIEW**

**OPPOSITE PAGE (LEFT TO RIGHT):**

1. AERIAL, 93 x 18 x 18", MAPLE, CHERRY, WALNUT, DYES
2. RECEPTOR, 95 x 23.5 x 23.5", MAPLE, POPLAR, DYES
3. RECEIVER, 90 x 20 x 20", MAPLE, ASH, CHERRY, WALNUT, DYES

**ABOVE (TOP TO BOTTOM):**

1. GETTING TO THE POINT (DETAIL), ASH, PENCILS
2. MEMORY CELLS, FROM THE HIVE SERIES, 2010, ASH, PENCILS AND GRAPHITE

\*ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF THE ARTIST;  
ALL DIMENSIONS: H x W x D

**LEFT:** ROBERT F. LYON AT THE LATHE