

Amanda Haas



EXHIBITION DATES

January 10 – May 4, 2007

OPENING RECEPTION

January 18, 5 pm – 7 pm

SCULPTURE COURT

1111 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607

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1111 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607

Open Monday – Friday, 7 am – 7 pm; third Thursdays until 8 pm

Free and open to the public. BART, AC Transit and wheelchair accessible.

Exhibition dates and hours are subject to change without notice.

Amanda Haas, *Boomerang*, 2006; oak, plastic laminate

Organized by the
Professional Services Division
of the Oakland Museum of California
510.238.6836



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I regard wood as a metaphor for the insignificant repetition of human existence. It is a natural material that demonstrates decay, reveals the impact of time upon reality, and shows significant changes over time of small, repetitive actions. Like humans, wood is subjected to natural processes of aging and yet remains connected to future existence through reproduction and evolution. It undergoes tremendous changes as its natural processes evolve, especially when forced to confront manmade scientific and technological artifices.

I seek work that physically involves me in natural process—with a fallen tree, for example. If I contrive such an event using my own mental and physical strength, I create a new kind of reality. When these small fleeting events of natural process (that illustrate a sense of chance or of loss) become trapped within my art, they are connected to a calmer, long-term view of existence.

The form of my work springs solely from the intimate act of discovery of what a material does best. With great uncertainty, I struggle to impose an idea on the material, never being certain of success until completion of the idea. Struggle is absolutely essential to my process. I have no confidence about the outcome of my work. I seek the fear of failure, the loss of control, in order to be certain that the odds are even between myself and my material.

This is tantamount to my experience of contemporary existence. When I can work “on the edge”, I have put myself into a situation where I am investigating human endurance and skill.

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