

The Cutting Edge

Ray Cologon, sculptor

Local sculptor and woodturner Ray Cologon was the speaker for the VWA's August meeting. It was quite a show and tell session as a large assortment of works were brought along from his recent exhibition.

A former philosophy student, Ray has an interest in art and music as the as the art, craft and design which is quite obviously evident in his work. The work that we saw, which comprises the NightWing series, consists of wands, vessels, masks, pipes and spoons, inspired by sylvan themes and the ideas of the druids regarding nature, humans and the world. The embedding of a horsehair within a turned and carved timber wand is an example of druidic notions incorporated into the works. The pieces which are made by a process of inverted quadrant lamination exhibit a 'pied' effect, like medieval clothing, also showing a duality of opposites evident in various philosophies of the world.

The pieces are exquisite, displaying a range of beautiful timbers, often in laminations, and complex forms achieved through carving or turning, often in combination. A linear lamination emphasises the curved form of a spoon, while larger vessels are turned in and out from both ends, then timber is cut away to form legs or an asymmetrical base. Delicate Sylvan Wood Nymph face masks are carved from both face and back to a thickness of only several millimetres. Cologon uses a range of tools, from knives and chisels to drill press with attachments and various powered carving tools.

Presentation was another work of art (and craft) in itself, with handmade boxes made of card and coloured paper. A computer program is used to calculate the dimensions of each item's individually sized box, and modern technology is also used for the photograph on the front of the box. Overall, a container worthy of the precious objects inside.

Tim Brooks 05.09.01

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