

Brad Sells



[GLOBAL INFLUENCE WITH TENNESSEE ROOTS]

WORK BY BRAD SELLS

Wood sculptor Brad Sells speaks of the South African cultural reverence for trees and the Hawaiian belief that ancestral spirits live in forests as two of several inspirations for his free-form vessels. The Cookeville, Tenn., artist, whose exhibit at Two Moon Gallery is opening this week, travels across the world to collect material for his pieces, often speaking with shamans who advise his wood-seeking endeavors. After returning

home to his East Tennessee studio, Sells uses custom-made hydraulic chainsaws, among other tools, to manipulate wood into a seemingly fragile substance that ribbons into place. The balance between appearance and reality is what makes his sculptures so unusual — wood grain is rarely this fluid, and it almost seems like a trick, a sculptural trompe-l'oeil. Sells can get wood to move like water. Perhaps he is the shaman at work here. *Opening reception 5-9 p.m. at Two Moon Gallery, 2905 12th Ave. S., Unit 108. Through Sept. 16*

LAURA HUTSON