

As seen in the  
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 AMERICAN  
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## UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works

January 19-31, 2012

Blue Rain Contemporary

4164 N. Marshall Way

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(480) 874-8110

• SHOW LOCATION SCOTTSDALE, AZ

# J. PAUL FENNELL

## Reverence in wood

**B**lue Rain Contemporary kicks off the new year with a solo show of one-of-a-kind finely turned wood art by J. Paul Fennell.

Fennell's vessel-like forms are often inspired by shapes in nature and serve as a structural launchpad for the detailed designs and patterns he creates by carving away unwanted material with precision tools. The final pieces are both delicate and organic.

"I like the idea of the vessel form in and of itself, and I like to decorate it in a way that interests me and expresses myself. The work is expressive in the sense that it's usually saying something," says Fennell. "I try to make statements about things, whether they're in reference to something historical or personal that I have an interest in. The piece itself becomes a nonverbal way of expressing something, it becomes a visual language."

Fennell's affinity for the ubiquitous

material stems from childhood memories of woodworking in his father's basement workshop. Essentially self-taught, Fennell prides himself on using salvaged wood that he often gathers from the "urban forest" of his residence in Scottsdale, Arizona. These "urban" materials are planted rather than native, with his primary supplier landscape contractors. Choice woods include carob, ficus, mesquite, and African Sumac.

"I try to infuse energy and movement in a lot of my pieces. The ribbons with swirls have to do with energy and movement," he explains.


Much of Fennell's designs are based on patterns that occur in nature or are man-made, while others come from different cultures, and sometimes he combines them. In some pieces he combines design elements that reference the ocean and contoured landscape concepts, as seen in *Seascape-Landscape I* and *Seascape-*

*Landscape II*. In the new series, *Lattice in the Clouds*, Fennell revisits a previous theme he worked on years ago.

"From time to time I go back to these because I have a new perspective on an old theme," he remarks.

*Lattice in the Clouds* is based on a pattern from the Buddhist temples of the sacred Mount Emei in Sichuan province, China, and retold in three dimensions.

"I had this notion to create very intricate designs in 3-D that came from these monasteries within the clouds of Mount Emei," says Fennell. "Previously the patterns weren't as intricate; I'm borrowing the designs but keeping the reverence about them intact." •

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to 

[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)



TESSERAE, FICUS WOOD, PAINT, 12 X 10½ X 10½"



LATTICE IN THE CLOUDS II, MESQUITE WOOD, OIL, ACRYLIC, 10 X 8 X 8"



TRANSITIONS, CAROB WOOD, 9 x 7"

*The Gallery Says . . .*

**"J. Paul Fennell's extraordinary and expressive vessel forms are not only aesthetically unique but also mind-boggling in their construction."**

*— Peter Stoessel, Executive Director, Blue Rain Gallery*