

Art in the Garden

Bamboo Art: Meditation & Transformation

Fall 2012



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In *Bamboo Art: Meditation and Transformation*, on view November 2–25, the work of three artists with an intertwined story—Charissa Brock, Anne Crumpacker, and Jiro Yonezawa—comes together in an exhibition focused on the art and craft of working with bamboo as a life-affirming process for both the artist and the viewer.

Yonezawa works with split bamboo, the traditional method of Japanese basket makers, and is widely known as one of Japan's finest bamboo artists. He received his training in Beppu, Kyushu, a city famous for bamboo crafts. With homes today in both Kyushu and Portland, Yonezawa says that bamboo's regenerative quality intrigues and inspires him.

"Preparing strips to weave and then weaving forms from those strips is inherently meditative," he says. "The cacophony of life dissipates; the sculpture emerges vigorous and vibrant." Yonezawa's large and small-scale forms are included in the collections of the American Craft Museum, New York; the Crafts Council, London; the Portland Art Museum; and many other museums around the world.

Anne Crumpacker is a member of the first graduating class of the MFA program in Applied Craft and Design from Oregon College of Art and Craft and Pacific Northwest College of Art. She took her first class there from Yonezawa, who taught her fundamentals such as how to split bamboo.

Crumpacker uses a crosscut bamboo technique. Her works create what she calls living topographies that interweave scale and proportion, light and shadow. Patterns mimicking the use of river stone in traditional Japanese landscape design call to mind rivulets of water.



Jizo 2 and Untitled, Jiro Yonezawa, 2005



Enso Luminary, Anne Crumpacker, 2012



Untitled, Charissa Brock, 2012



Bonds, Jiro Yonezawa, 2011

Within Zen design, the circle—or *enso*—represents enlightenment, as it is both bounded and boundless. The enso is a microcosm and metaphor for life, the interconnection of all things.

ANNE CRUMPACKER

For this exhibition she has completed a new illuminated sculpture in the shape of a circle made with whole rings that are crosscut, a first for her. "It will be exciting to see it at the Garden," she says. "I hope from viewing the work visitors will have a sense of well-being and experience a connection with nature."

While earning her MFA, Crumpacker's mentor was Charissa Brock. Brock is an internationally known bamboo sculptor, based in Portland, with an MFA from the Tyler School in Philadelphia. Exhibitions and collections across the country feature her work.

Brock uses both split and crosscut bamboo. "I like working with multiples of elements, small pieces I can repeatedly stitch together. The repetition of the work creates a meditative space where possibilities of future pieces can be dreamed," says Charissa.

Bamboo is a sustainable material that has played a prominent role in the arts and crafts of Japan for centuries. This exhibition celebrates some of the new directions this versatile material is taking at the hands of artists influenced by both East and West.

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Front cover: Detail, Cross Currents, Anne Crumpacker, 2011
Back cover: Cross Currents, Anne Crumpacker, 2011



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