

MUSEUM CRAFT DESIGN

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Museum of Craft and Design presents *Michael Cooper: A Sculptural Odyssey, 1968-2011*

Traveling exhibition visits Bellevue Arts Museum (July-October 2011), Fuller Craft Museum (November 2011-May 2012) and Museum of Craft and Design in San Francisco (June-September 2012)

SAN FRANCISCO (January 12, 2010) – The [Museum of Craft and Design](#) presents its first ever traveling exhibition *Michael Cooper: A Sculptural Odyssey, 1968-2011*, a selection of more than seventeen of Cooper's most thought-provoking works. Featuring work ranging from early explorations of functional forms to recent large-scale mixed media installations, the exhibition will debut at the [Bellevue Arts Museum](#) in Bellevue, Wash, (July-October 2011) before traveling to the [Fuller Craft Museum](#) in Brockton, Mass. (November 2011-May 2012). The tour culminates at the home of its organizing presenter, [Museum of Craft and Design](#) in San Francisco, Calif. (June-September 2012).



Peaches (2004), wood, steel and aluminum,
40" x 49" x 41"

become increasingly complex and multi-layered. The exhibition is anchored by a monumental, kinetic, computer-driven work entitled "How the West Was Won, How the West Was Lost," a sculptural treatise on conquest, greed, and lust for oil and power, concepts as topical today as they were when the artist began the work in 1977.

Michael Cooper is known for his complex and cleverly crafted mixed-media sculpture - works which depict otherwise commonplace objects transformed by the artist's sardonic wit. His fantastical "vehicles," which include pistol-packing tricycles as well as curiously mobile forms of "furniture," underscore Cooper's role as one of the most innovative sculptors working today. Investigating familiar iconic forms such as children's toys, and guns, Cooper's work critiques contemporary society and its fascination with violence and power. Over the forty-year period explored in *A Sculptural Odyssey* Cooper's work has

“Michael Cooper’s work is radical but at the same time disarmingly accessible, engaging audiences with the ideas he explores in each piece and igniting viewers’ imaginations,” said JoAnn Edwards, executive director of the Museum of Craft and Design. “We are proud and delighted to share Cooper’s four decades of sculptural work with audiences around the country.”

Michael Cooper: A Sculptural Odyssey, 1968-2011 is organized by the Museum of Craft and Design with guest curator Harold B. Nelson, a specialist in contemporary craft and the decorative arts and Curator of American Decorative Arts, The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA. The fully illustrated catalogue, available in June, will include an introduction by the curator and essays by Eudorah Moore, curator of the pioneering California Design exhibitions and former curator of design at the Pasadena Art Museum; Glenn Adamson, Head of Graduate Studies at the Victoria & Albert Museum; John Lavine, writer, woodworker and former editor of *Woodwork* magazine; and an interview with the artist by writer and registrar Karin Nelson.



Boy Scout Special (1977), anodized aluminum and black chromed steel, 30” x 24” x 60”

FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION: For more information about the exhibition and related educational programs, please visit sfmcd.org or call 415-773-0303.

MEDIA, PLEASE NOTE: For high-resolution images, interviews with JoAnn Edwards, executive director of the Museum of Craft and Design, or to attend/cover the show, please contact Jessica Lee at 415-359-2312/jessica@landispr.com.

About the Museum of Craft and Design

The Museum of Craft and Design, formerly known as the San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design, is an environment for experiencing innovative contemporary work that engages the community while stimulating the creative potential in peoples’ lives. To become a member, sponsor or for more information, please call 415-773-0303, email info@sfmcd.org or visit www.sfmcd.org.

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