

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 30 works March 1-31, 2012 Hirschl & Adler Modern The Crown Building 730 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10019 (212) 535-8810

ELIZABETH TURK

Defining space

lizabeth Turk's studio is located in a marble yard in Southern California and, as such, she favors using stone that isn't necessarily perfect—remnants from another job or purpose.

"I like the stone that has a mark or memory or crack from another purpose," says Turk. "I think that adds another level to the narrative of the piece. And, as this is remnant material, it has a shape already and then I look at my job as keeping the parameters of that shape and then taking away all the rest."

Turk does not use a traditional hammer and chisel as she feels this work is not about just banging away on the stone. Rather, she prefers using grinders of various sorts—typically air and electric—to save the stone from such a rigorous process.

"The sculpture defines itself," says Turk.
"I know that sounds odd but it is true. The first
few works test the concept and the material and
then each piece grows until they test me."

The beauty of Turk's sculptures is that she is able to define space with a single line. The graceful form of the work curves and falls like the unwinding of a ribbon, yet it is still cut from a solid block of stone.

"If you're looking at the physical object and you allow your eye to trace the line, you will find that it is a loop or two loops or even three loops," explains Turk. "I love the idea of having a single line define a threedimensional space."

For Turk, then, the work becomes just as much about what is not there as what is there.

"I'm carving the space from the material that has been removed," says Turk. "And that makes it so you are looking through matter into space. Something solid as a rock is no longer solid. That is the metaphor behind the work, such as *The Cage*."



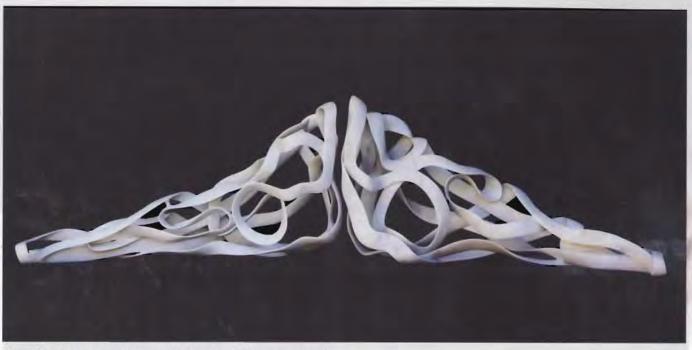


CAGE: Box 6, MARBLE, 151/2 X 20 X 151/2" (LEFT), CAGE: Box 8, MARBLE, 221/2 X 17 X 10" (RIGHT). Photography © Eric Stoner. Courtesy Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York, NY.

The Gallery Says . . .

"In this new series of work, which she calls *Cages*, Turk has pushed herself and her medium to new limits. As always, the sculptures are daring manipulations of form and material—miraculous fusions of fragility and strength. Yet these new works are equally about what is not seen, prompting us to consider the sculpture conceptually, intellectually and emotionally."

- Shelley Farmer, Director, Hirschl & Adler Modern



Cage: Triangles 9 & 10, Marble, 16 x 70½ x 11" (BOTH TRIANGLES).

Photography © Eric Stoner. Courtesy Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York, NY.



Artist in her studio working on Cage: Infinity Column 4, marble, 70 x 4 x 4½"



CAGE: WILL & INTENTION 1, MARBLE, 6 x 20 x 3". Photography © Eric Stoner. Courtesy Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York, NY.