

RENA BRANSTEN GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sam Perry: Clew

September 7 – October 26, 2019

Opening Reception September 7 / 5–7pm

Twenty years ago sculptor Sam Perry decided to change mediums from clay to wood, influenced by his long-term role as the director of conservation at Runnymede Sculpture Farm in Woodside, CA. *Clew*, Perry's solo exhibition opening at Rena Bransten Gallery on September 7, showcases his most delicate work to date, and confirms his mastery of his chosen medium.

The current exhibition is named for five iterative works *Clew I – Clew V*. Originally conceived as a single massive screen-form structure, the works have been installed in the gallery to allow visitors to walk between the interlacing attenuated pieces.

Since the beginning of his journey with wood, Perry has experimented with sculpture that seems to bend, twist, or melt in front of the viewer, who may not realize every piece is carved from a single branch, log, or stump of wood (mostly sourced from Runnymede). *Clew I – Clew V* are continuations of Perry's organic style, but in these works the artist obfuscates where each tenuous element begins and ends.

Perry's signature sense of humor shows up in his titles. In the case of the *Clew* works, the title is indeed a clue, here meaning yarn or thread used to guide one's way through a maze or labyrinth, and also referring to a tangled clew of worms. Perry first started experimenting with clusters of small branches in 2012, and here advances the concept on a massive scale.

Navel-Gazing is an anthropomorphic knot twisting and bending to look in on itself. Oxidized to an ebony color, *Last Dance* is two lovers holding on until the end. *Butterfly Supernova* is a crucible transformed from a massive solid tree trunk, riven with fissures from the process of transformation.

Made from the same trunk as *Butterfly*, *Instrospection* is at once solid and ephemeral with deep fissures that resemble veins. *DQ* is a tall expression of melting soft serve.

Clew is on view at Rena Bransten Gallery September 7 - October 26, 2019. The artist will be present for the opening reception First Saturday, September 7, 5:00 – 7:00 PM and First Saturday, October 5, 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

RENA BRANSTEN
GALLERY



Clew I, 2019
Wood
App. 96 x 54 x 60 inches



Clew II, 2019
Wood
App. 96 x 54 x 60 inches



Clew III, 2019
Wood
App. 96 x 54 x 60 inches



Clew IV, 2019
Wood
App. 96 x 54 x 60 inches



Clew V, 2019
Wood
App. 96 x 54 x 60 inches

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Butterfly Supernova, 2019

Wood, steel

26 x 28 x 28 inches



Introspection, 2019

Wood, steel

38 x 33 x 31 inches



Sam Perry

Last Dance, 2019

Wood, steel

67 x 17 x 20 inches



Navel Gazing, 2019

Wood, steel

58 x 31 x 24 inches



D.Q., 2018

Wood, steel

28 x 12 x 12 inches