

WEXLER GALLERY

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Vivian Beer: Streamlining Desire



Streamliner, 2014, Steel and automotive paint, 64 X 16 X 19 3/4 inches

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April 2, 2014

PHILADELPHIA- Wexler Gallery is pleased to present *Vivian Beer: Streamlining Desire*, a solo exhibition by designer Vivian Beer. The show will run from May 2nd through June 28th. ***An Opening Reception will take place on First Friday, May 2nd from 5-8pm.**

Streamlining Desire is a premiere look at the designer's new *Streamliner series*, highlighting her passionate return to working exclusively with steel. The exhibition will also feature select benches from the hot-rod inspired *Anchored Candy series*.

Working with materials such as stainless steel, automotive paint and concrete, Vivian's work is a blend of custom contemporary design, craft and sculpture. The evolution of her work is intimately tied with research and exploration of the techniques, industrial processes and cultural associations of metal. Interested in contemporary car culture and fascinated by cultural signifiers of women's fashion, Vivian Beer manipulates steel into an ergonomic experience for the body, inviting the viewer to physically engage with her furniture.

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Vivian's sophisticated seating can assume the appearance of a woman's high heeled shoe or an 18th century conversation chair seducing the curves of the human body. In the artist's words, "...through the familiar function of seating, I am scripting an experience that is both formative and sensual."

As a departure from her *Infrastructure* series, where the symbolism of the material and pattern was directly related to transport and passageways, the units in *Streamliner* are made exclusively of metal and are rooted in the concept of speed and motion. Drawing inspiration from the 1930's *Art Moderne* movement, Beer replaces sharp edges with simple dynamic curves to create a streamlined and aerodynamic effect, hinting at ideas of action and acceleration. To push the curves and lines of her work, Vivian Beer has rebuilt the tools in her workshop to allow for smoother compound forms.

Complimentary to the fast aesthetic of *Streamliner*, Beer's exhibition includes a small selection of colorful *Anchored Candy* benches. The counterbalance of the two bodies of work is intentional and represents the young designer's masterful and seemingly natural ability to render playful variety through functional seating.

In 2012, Vivian was included in the *40 Under 40: Craft Future* exhibition at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC. Her teaching positions have included Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Penland School of Crafts, Peters Valley School of Craft, Anderson Ranch Arts Center and SUNY Purchase, Center for Metal Arts. Public Art and Collections include Winslow Park in Portland, Maine, The Fuller Craft Museum, The National Ornamental Metals Museum, The Renwick Gallery of The Smithsonian American Art Museum, and The Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Vivian Beer received her B.F.A. in Sculpture from the Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine and holds her M.F.A in Metalsmithing from The Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Fascinated by the notion of challenging the traditional labels that categorize art, Wexler Gallery exhibits work that can coexist in the worlds of design, fine art, decorative art and craft. By questioning and challenging the boundaries of these fields, we aim to present functional and non-functional work that consistently celebrates innovation. Unified by a commitment to excellent craftsmanship and true dedication to their art, we are proud to showcase some of the world's most esteemed artists working in their areas of pursuit.

The Wexler Gallery is located at 201 North Third Street in the historical district of Old City Philadelphia. We invite you to visit our gallery and explore our website at www.wexlergallery.com. For high resolution images or additional information, please contact joy@wexlergallery.com or call (215) 923-7030.

Images follow.

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Vivian Beer

Streamliner, 2014

Steel and automotive paint

Edition 2 of 10

64 X 16 X 20 inches

Photo courtesy of Wexler Gallery

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Vivian Beer

Anchored Candy no. 6, 2014

Steel and automotive paint

60 X 21 X 42 inches

Photo courtesy of Wexler Gallery

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Vivian Beer

Anchored Candy no. 7, 2014

Steel and automotive paint

80 X 22 X 37 inches

Photo courtesy of Wexler Gallery

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Vivian Beer

Zephyr, 2014

Aluminum and automotive paint

74 X 18 X 26 inches

Photo courtesy of Wexler Gallery