



# Michael Beatty

## Perimeter



At first glance, Michael Beatty's sculptures are simply tangles of wood and metal (well, tangles of metal and "how the fuck did he get wood to bend that way?!?"), but on closer inspection they become statements about boundaries and the interactions between shapes. The Trouble with Painting, composed of plywood, maple veneer and steel, features four wildly curved thin plywood rods joined by four steel right-angle pieces. It could be the frame of a two-dimensional work twisted boldly into 3-D. In other sculptures, such as A Circuitous Route to You and Untitled (twist/hold), metal frameworks are actively integrated with wooden designs, both supporting and seeming to restrain them.

Perimeter, Beatty's upcoming show at the Barbara Krakow Gallery, features a series of "circumference/perimeter" paintings. These visually simple images are composed of rigid, geometric lines paired with flowing, organic ones. The geometric and organic shapes have equal perimeters, so it's easy to stare at them for minutes trying to figure out how one shape translates into the other. Untitled (white loop), one of the pieces in the show, is mind-warping: Two pieces of wood curl around each other, suggesting a Möbius strip. Never mind that he's making chopsticks do yoga; the shapes alone are amazing.

By Raphael Luckom

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**MICHAEL BEATTY; PERIMETER**  
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