

Curt Theobald



Cha' Hu', 2012, Cherry, 7½" × 6" × 3"
(10 cm × 15 cm × 7.6 cm)

Much of my work reflects my life experiences. My creative process begins with putting my ideas into drawings. These drawings help me define my work and anticipate any complexities during construction. The more technically challenging the project, the more passionate I become about the piece. Solving the challenge is where my passion lies.

I will usually go through several design changes before I head out to the studio to construct a prototype. This process allows me to modify any aspects of the piece and work out design challenges before I begin actual construction. Making the prototype can take up to a week, but the investment of time is worth it—I don't want any surprises when working with valuable species of wood.

My segmented designs became more contemporary for the inherent challenge of creating new work that went beyond round and predictable. I wanted to bring to life ideas I had for more sculptural pieces that had a personal connection, and to tell stories related to my life experiences. In *My Mothers*, for example, the large brown piece represents my wife. The smaller gray one represents our daughter's birth mother.

The smallest piece is our daughter and has both mothers' influences represented by the mix of colors from the larger vessels. ■

More of Curt's work can be seen at curttheobald.com. Curt will be a featured demonstrator at the San José symposium.

Emerald Isle, 2010, Emerald soapstone, dark green soapstone, ebony, 4½" × 8"
(11 cm × 20 cm)



Lightning Snake, 2003, European pear, holly, ebony, bloodwood, lacewood, Macassar ebony, 5" × 8" (13 cm × 20 cm)

Diamonds, 2010, Italian alabaster, Utah alabaster, ebony, 5" x 5" (13 cm x 13 cm)



Freedom's Never Free, 2007, Cherry, holly, pau amarello, ebony, 4" x 5" (10 cm x 13 cm)



Family Series, 2011, Wenge, glass, 6" x 3" x 2 1/4" (15 cm x 7.6 cm x 5.7 cm)



Cool Blue Wave, 2011, Apricot, glass, 6" x 3" x 2 1/4" (15 cm x 7.6 cm x 6 cm)



My Mothers, 2010, Dyed birch, holly, 6 1/4" x 3 1/2" x 4 1/2" (16 cm x 9 cm x 11 cm) (tallest)

