

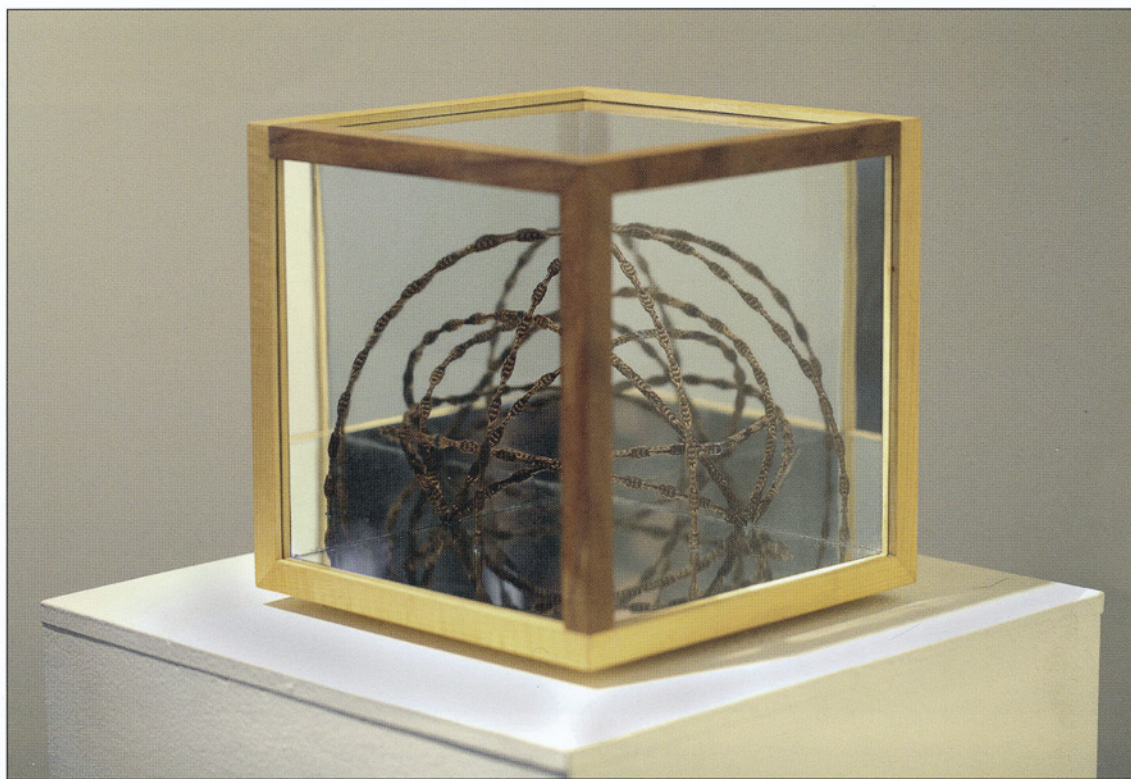
In **Diana Cherbuliez's** sculptures, edgy imagination goes hand in hand with amazing craftsmanship. Driven by ideas and exquisite sensitivity to materiality and technique, every factor contributing to the final work has been carefully chosen for its relevance, allusion, tradition, and beauty. With a dark humor and sense of the absurd, Cherbuliez draws on fairy tales and other stories for inspiration, but also addresses personal and social concerns. Her materials are mostly found or stem from her own life, including hair and dust from under her bed. She seems able to make anything her slightly wicked imagination can dream up—chemically softened wishbones twist into a Möbius strip, apples have faces carved into them, cigarette butts form a hand grasping its own tail.

Mirrors recur frequently in the artist's work as emblems of reflection but also futility. Extending any structure or object in front of them, they can generate infinity or labyrinths. Human hair is loaded with associations, among them the obvious of beauty as well as narrative, memorial, and social functions. Formed into a rope or intricately braided, it becomes a symbol of strength and vulnerability at the same time. It seems that Cherbuliez is always capable to see myriad sides to the dilemma of being in the world.

DIANA CHERBULIEZ

While my sculpture is largely conceptual, it remains rooted in the poetry of materials—their specific physical beauty, history, and references. In my current work, ladders and bridges are structures of transition that give shape to other ambiguous states, like the drift between consciousness

and sleep. Constructed from salvaged building materials and collected refuse of my own life, the works' subject, media, and methods all inform the project to make visible the latent connections between the things we use in our daily lives and who we have been and will be.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LUC DEMIERS

Ahem, construction-waste plywood and walnut, glass, mirror, and anonymous hair, 10.25" x 10.25" x 10.25".
Courtesy the University of New England Art Gallery.