



Will Clift

"I've been working with wood and building forms for as long as I can remember," says 27-year-old sculptor Will Clift, who uses all varieties of wood—teak, mahogany, exotic African woods like wenge and padauk—to create graceful, arcing, free-form sculptures that, astoundingly, stay balanced and upright on an impossibly small base without the use of nails or glue. He calls his abstract style "intuitive" more than anything else—he might get an idea from a shape he sees ("It could be a curve, or shadow, or one thing falling against another"), develop it on paper, then create it in three dimensions without the use of any calculations or math equations. "What I'm trying to explore is the fundamental relationship between form and space, how light and shadow play off each other. How to use gravity, which is as much a medium as wood or metal," he explains.

Clift never formally studied art but earned a bachelor's of science degree from Stanford University and has done everything from furniture design (which he still does), to architecture work in Japan, to being an engineering consultant, to working as an auto mechanic for a summer. Having lived in Santa Fe, NM, until college, he now makes his home in Boulder, CO, preferring to put some space between himself and Santa Fe's well-developed art community. "Boulder's nice. It's a cross between a small town and a big one. I love the outdoors it provides, and it allows me to create my own environment," he says. Clift is represented by Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, and Robert Brown Gallery, Washington, DC. —S.H.

**ABOVE: FOUR PIECES, RIGHT AND LEFT, MAHOGANY, 16 X 50 X 1.
RIGHT: THREE PIECES, RED, AFRICAN PADAUK WOOD, 27 X 7 X 1.**

