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BONNIE COLLURA AT HALLWALLS

Highly crafted weird science from a celebrated sculptor

by Elizabeth Licata
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Bonnie Collura: Recent Work

at Hallwalls, 341 Delaware Avenue

hallwalls.org, 854-1694

Figurative-fluid is the term Hallwalls curator John Massier uses in describing the sculpture of Penn State professor and Guggenheim Fellowship winner Bonnie Collura. While recognizably human elements can be easily discerned in the artists' works, there are also vaguely monstrous forms woven throughout many of the sculptures. Collura employs a wide range of media: Fortúna (Woman), shown above, is made of wood, steel, hydrostone, oil-based clay, aluminum shim, expandable foam, and a cut and twisted Santa lawn ornament. Expect the unexpected when walking around these



Fortúna (Woman) by Bonnie Collura
Courtesy of Hallwalls

sculptures; a new cultural reference or visual surprise appears at every angle. The dichotomy that's most apparent is that between craft and appropriation. A realistically molded arm can emerge from folds of drapery that weave in and out of fragmented body parts. In other works, the fabric elements are themselves molded into figures. Often, these works hang from the ceiling, upping the macabre ante considerably. The sci-fi elements of this work make it very approachable for contemporary audiences; there's plenty of entertainment to be had here, jarring or not.

Elizabeth Licata is Editor-in-Chief of *Buffalo Spree Magazine*.

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