

PAPERMAG

GALLERY GO ROUND

BY VICTORIA PEDERSEN

Quirky is clearly a virtue in the work of Bonnie Collura. Her eccentric sculptures start with familiar imagery—everything from Disney characters to Greek goddesses—but viewers will be hard-pressed to recognize them when they're finished. Collura's contorted forms look like huge blobs of melted wax, but they are in fact carved from hunks of foam, which she then covers with paper and water putty and coats in layers of fun-house colors. But these glossy, highly finished pieces have a more ominous presence. Dismembered body parts, some human and some animal, snap together like organic Legos to create mutations that appear to morph and melt before the viewer's eyes. Everything reminds us of things we know, whether the reference is to Persephone, Snow White, Scarlett O'Hara or Bernini's Saint Teresa, but details are blurred and elements jumbled, creating a disjointed view of fact and fiction.