

Michael Lee

b.1960, Honolulu, Hawai'i, lives in Kapolei, O'ahu
exhibited in *Biennial VIII*

left to right

Large Ipu, 2007

Ipu Pod, 2007

turned, carved and hammered milo with milk paint

Matau Pod, 2003

in collaboration with Graeme Priddle (New
Zealander, b.1960)

turned, carved, burned, sandblasted and stippled
canary wood and acrylic

Crop Circles, 2004

in collaboration with Hans Weissflog (German,
b.1954)

turned, carved and stippled kingwood

Celestial Seasons, 2005

turned, carved and stippled koa, yellowheart,
padauk, lignum vitae, ebony with gold leaf

Michael Lee

b.1960, Honolulu, Hawai'i, lives in Kapolei, O'ahu
exhibited in *Biennial VIII*

My work in this exhibition includes newer work exploring milk paints applied to wood, something I was a little hesitant to try until I co-taught a class at Arrowmont School with wood artist Stoney Lamar, who had been exploring the possibilities for his own work. I was so impressed with his results that it prompted me to apply it to my own work in the *Ipu* series.

Celestial Seasons is from my family portrait series depicting me, my wife and our three children. I like to think of the larger vessel as me cradling the rest of my family of pods, each pod symbolizing the different seasons as distinct as their own personalities.

Crop Circles is a collaboration with German wood artist Hans Weissflog. Hans turned the beautiful rings into the solid piece of kingwood and then sent it to me to carve. I have always been intrigued with the crop circle phenomenon and let that fascination dictate how this piece turned out.

Matau Pod is a collaboration with New Zealand wood artist Graeme Priddle. I was fortunate to have Graeme stay with us for about a week, so we had the luxury to work side by side on this piece in my studio. *Matau* is Maori for fish hook so we sculpted it into a shell-like fish hook shape. I had this pretty piece of green acrylic (we kid people that it is a very rare type of jade wood) and I carved it as a pod form to nestle in the middle. Graeme then burned the exterior of the two pieces with his spiral motif.