

## CANDIDO STORNI: **WOGEN**

May 30 – July 20, 2013



*Kubus CXXXVIII, 2011, walnut, maple, 26 cm / Kubus CXXXIX, 2011, walnut, maple, 26 cm*

Gallery Wenger is pleased to present Candido Storni's new sculptures in the exhibition 'Waves'. In addition to objects from 2011–13, there will be some earlier works that have not been shown previously.

Fascinated by wood as a living material, Candido Storni is constantly calling into question the static-looking homogeneity and geometrical forms of cube and cuboid: When do we perceive a cubic unity even though the wooden sculptures lack "perfect" dimensions? Is the composition of individual elements more than the sum of the parts? When does cool, geometric form as outer boundary dominate and when the warmth and aliveness of the material of which the cube is made? When do power relationships between reason and nature, planning and process come into play?

Candido Storni's artistic approach likewise moves between calculation and process. Some of the works are planned and calculated using sketches and drawings, thereafter a choice of wood is made and cut to size to realize the final piece. Other sculptures evolve – often from existing pieces of wood – during the production process in his workshop in Meilen, Switzerland.

One crucial aspect is the sawing of the wood: every type of wood but also every single trunk from the same type of tree has its particular features and traces which Storni integrates into his objects and exploits artistically: tree rings can take on geometry and become ornamental patterns that produce flittering optical effects; other natural features, according to the artist, can demonstrate that the material is alive, such as grain, branches, and splitting, openly contradict strict geometric form. Traces of woodworking such as lines left by the resistance of the saw blade are integrated into the works as autonomous structures. Storni also works with machines from the 1930s

and 1960s in which manual control still plays an important role. Color can be evoked subtly in the sculptures by using different types of wood or wood that has grayed with age, or it can be surprisingly bright, such as the traces of markings spray-painted by loggers.

“Just as wood moves over time, the work of art is also in motion,” Storni explains. His sculptures in strict geometric forms, developed with extreme precision conceptually and artistically, are also arguments for open processes that cannot be controlled. In the tension between architecture and art, they stand for – following the tradition of historical precursors such as the Suprematists and the Bauhaus – the connection between life and art.

Candido Storni (\*1967 in Meilen, Zurich) first trained as an architectural draftsman before studying interior and furniture design in Milan. Interested in the practical implementation of what had been planned on the drafting table, Storni began to work as a carpenter and realized his first sculptures in 1994. His artistic work with wood was also influenced by his various travels in Scandinavia. This is his first exhibition at the Galerie Wenger.

**Opening is on May 30, 2013, 6:00 to 8:00pm.** Candido Storni will be present. A catalog will accompany the exhibition.