



MAY 2006

Each month, **Artweek** Previews Editor Debra Koppman highlights selected exhibitions from venues listed in the [Artweek Exhibition Calendar](#).

Gregg Fleishman

Culver City-based artist Gregg Fleishman was trained in building and architecture, but he credits his creative spirit and abilities to attending the unique Modern Play school, founded by his parents in 1949. For more than twenty-five years, Fleishman has worked to create bridges between art and architecture, designing meticulously crafted objects which are both functional and decorative. His furniture, play structures, geometric configurations and occasional vehicles are conceived of through a combination of mathematical precision and aesthetic play.

Using primarily slotted European birch plywood and plastics, Fleishman looks for and imagines three-dimensional shapes emerging from the abstract world of the flat plane. Once cut, these shapes are able to rise up to form his chairs, play structures and “cluster-structures.”

Fan Nebula 4 is an example of a chair which very cleverly doubles as a sculpture, effectively hiding its functionality. At first glance, it looks like a large, round, non-representational figure, with the open plumage of some large abstracted bird. Made of slotted birch plywood painted black, the sharp value contrast between the painted surface and the untouched edges and slats adds interesting rhythm and linear repetition.

Hex House is an example of Fleishman’s cluster-structures, which he describes as original designs of geometric shapes which have infinite configurations. Made of three twelve-foot modules with odd, slightly protruding roofs, *Hex House* is two stories tall, stands on rounded beams and looks like a cross between a house and a boat. Each module has a big round “porthole” at either end, and three smaller, narrow, elongated oval windows on the sides. The piece feels light, appealing and inviting. It is large enough to enter and fun enough to play house in—Fleishman’s point entirely.

RE:FORM/Works by Gregg Fleishman will be on view May 6 through June 18 at Swarm Gallery, 560 Second St., Oakland.