

ARTS MAGAZINE



Susan Mastrangelo, Installation view, 1990.
Courtesy Philippe Staib Gallery.

In an exhibition of large-scale free-standing wooden sculptures at Philippe Staib (September 13–October 13) **Susan Mastrangelo's** early modernist roots are clearly visible. Despite the essentially abstract nature of these quirky, paddle-shaped forms that coagulate in clusters around the gallery, the work clearly has a naturalistic inspiration. They appear grouped like animate creatures comfortable with the social atmosphere of cohabitation. The surfaces of her sculptures seem weathered and worn like painted wood left out in the elements. Segments of the planar surfaces are often laminated with a lead veneer. At present, her work is competent but repeats well-worn sculptural styles—yet seems energetic enough to eventually break out into something more original.

Peggy Cyphers