

The sensuous furniture and sculpture of Mark Levin are the products of more than thirty years' mastery of the process of stack-laminated carving. The technique was explored by the sculptor Isamu Noguchi in the 1940's and put Wendell Castle's furniture on the map in the 1960's. Levin, working in the studio he built just outside Santa Fe, is continuing the tradition with pieces like *Sun Valley Leaf Table*, shown here, using stack lamination to sculpt works that are by turns delicately lyrical, sexy, and voluptuous.

"My work," says Mark Levin, "is an instinctual response to both natural and man-made forms that I find pleasing, from nuances of the forms of women, fruit, flowers, leaves, and butterflies to the shapes of automobiles, machinery and architecture. I start by delineating a

silhouette, visualizing the piece initially not in wood but rather in a black, monolithic material. If the form has a visual impact in this black dress it will be that much more alluring fleshed out in wood."

Levin works primarily in cherry, maple, walnut, and mahogany. Stack-lamination is incredibly labor-intensive. It requires careful machining of mating surfaces, gallons of glue, forests of clamps, and serious protection from the dust storms of grinders and sanders, but for Levin, the results reward all the wear and tear on his tools and his body. His furniture has garnered numerous awards and is regularly exhibited at the country's most prestigious shows, most recently at SOFA Chicago. To see more of his work, look at his website, www.marklevin.com.

—Glenn Gordon

