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page editor: Pete Wicklund

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report of a sexual assault. Rudolfo Gomez, of the 6800 block of Middle Road, allegedly groped a 13-year-old girl on the

away and the officer ordered him to sit
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senior putting event during the Senior Olympics at the Festival Hall in Racine. Seniors from Racine, Walworth and Kenosha counties in Wisconsin and Lake County, Ill., participated in the Senior Olympic program.

Reuse muse: Artist finds new life in raw materials RAM's latest window display constructed of recycled scrap wood

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RACINE — Waste not, want not. These are words that artist Christine Lee works by.

With each piece she creates, the California-based artist aims to reduce waste either by utilizing materials she already has, or finding materials that have been discarded by someone else. Her current installation in the Racine Art Museum's Windows on Fifth gallery, 441 Main St., is a good example of both.

Called "Interlocked," the installation consists of white pine framing timbers, recycled from Wisconsin barns, along with much smaller, Lincoln Log-style pieces cut from scraps of various woods. Together they create a work of art that was created specifically for the museum's window space — and one that will change during its yearlong stay there.

If You Go

WHAT: "Christine Lee: Interlocked"
WHEN: Now through July 21, 2013
WHERE: Windows on Fifth Gallery, at the Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St.
COST: Free
INFO: Go to: www.ramart.org

As is true with all of RAM's window exhibit artists, Lee will return to Racine halfway through the year to rework her piece. And, in the meantime, "Interlocked" may also make some alterations of its own, Lee said, as the color and patina of some wood will likely change as it sits in the windows.

"The changes in the wood will go along with the changes in the

seasons," said Lee, who grew up in the Chicago suburbs and did her undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Each small scrap of wood was carefully chosen by the artist to coordinate with the color of the larger timber it touches. And the many dado (trench) cuts made in those scraps was done by Lee.

Such careful consideration and manipulation of materials is something found throughout her artistic process, as is Lee's use of repetitive, or rhythmic action, in her work. Repetition is meditative for her, Lee said, and gives her the chance to develop an understanding and appreciation for the material, beyond that of its original use.

Lee's journey into art and woodworking came after having studied chemistry for two

years at UW-Madison. The switch from science to art was the first really risky move she'd ever made, Lee said. And she's been pushing limits ever since, especially when it comes to her creations.

No matter what material she is working with, her goal is to fully explore and investigate its potential, and find alternate applications for it. It was while she was earning her master's degree in furniture design and woodworking from San Diego State University that the artist said she became more aware of reusing materials.

"I like having the opportunity to come back to something, and try to increase the value of it," she said. "If you just look around a little, before long you can find another use for it."

For more about Christine Lee and her work, go to: www.missleelee.com



JON BOLTON Submitted photo
Christine Lee shown at work.



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