



Michelle Lopez, *Your Board*, 2009, Maple plywood, grip tape and steel, 18 x 12 x 42 in. (45.7 x 30.5 x 106.7 cm), Courtesy of the artist and Simon Preston, New York. +1 212 431 1105

MICHELLE LOPEZ

ARTIST TO WATCH

Lopez is a Brooklyn-based sculptor and installation artist. She received her BA in art history at Barnard College, before enrolling at the School of Visual Arts in 1992, where she obtained her MFA. Her sculpture, *Boy*, a leather-covered Honda, received critical acclaim and public attention when it was exhibited in P.S. 1's *Greater New York* exhibit in 1999. Lopez's eclectic mix of sculpture and installations bridges the gap between the satirical and the sincere, making equal reference to popular culture, assemblage and surrealism. She makes use of a wide range of materials, pulling from the everyday to render the unexpected. The artist considers herself a feminist without a feminist aesthetic. Androgyny is raised to the level of mysticism, where chaos and instability hold the key to beauty. Her sculptures possess the desperate energy of unique entities and ideas mid-collision. Her meticulously crafted and arranged works possess the beauty of the impermanent, the vibrancy of contradiction. Morgan Falconer of *Frieze Magazine* writes of her 2009 exhibit at the Simon Preston

Gallery: "All of these objects are marvelously poised between being one strange thing and something stranger still." A woman's wig assumes the form of crackling campfire flames cast in resin, the form of a skateboard morphs into a biomorphic sheet. The plywood form appears to ooze luxuriously from its metal stand. The artist's intent might be thought of as alchemy of the everyday. It is her ability to bring surprising new forms to familiar ideas and objects that make her stand out from her contemporaries. She has had solo exhibitions at Feature Inc., Deitch Projects and Simon Preston Gallery. She was a recipient of the MacDowell Colony Fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts. She has been included in group exhibitions at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Brooklyn Museum, Artists Space and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and is represented by Simon Preston Gallery on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. -HH