

Nanopublication – Subtractive Carving and Material Resistance

by Arnaud Quercy · Charles Mingus · 2021



CLAIM 1: SUBTRACTIVE CARVING AND MATERIAL RESISTANCE

I carved this sculpture from a single oak log, working subtractively to find a vertical form that stands tall and unyielding – the raw material's density and resistance echoing Mingus [3]'s physical presence, his notorious temper, and his uncompromising musical vision.

CONTEXT

Working with a single oak log involves direct confrontation with material resistance. Oak is dense, hard, and unforgiving – it fights back. The subtractive process demands physical force and sustained commitment; there's no room for hesitation or second-guessing once cuts are made. This material reality became inseparable from the subject: Charles [1] Mingus, whose physical bulk and notorious temper were as legendary as his music.

The verticality of the form was immediate and necessary. Mingus stood tall – literally and figuratively. He refused to compromise his musical integrity, even when it cost him jobs, collaborations, and commercial success. He was fired by Duke Ellington after a backstage fight. He publicly berated audiences and musicians mid-performance. His reputation as "The Angry Man of Jazz" was earned through decades of uncompromising artistic vision and explosive confrontations.

The oak's resistance during carving mirrors this temperament. Every cut required force. The material didn't yield easily. This physicality – the density, the weight, the grain pushing back – became the sculpture's truth. Mingus wasn't polished or easy. Neither is this piece.

REFERENCES

- [1] Arnaud Quercy (2021). Charles Mingus – Catalogue raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0229.html>
- [2] Santoro, Gene. **Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus**. Oxford University Press, 2000.
- [3] Mingus, Charles. **Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus**. Alfred A. Knopf, 1971.
- [4] "Charles Mingus." **New World Encyclopedia**. https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Charles_Mingus

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: Jazz Legends

Collection: Untamed Creations

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

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 BIRD (Charlie Parker)

DOCUMENTED AT

Catalogue Raisonné – Charles Mingus – Charles Mingus – Oak Sculpture – Arnaud Quercy (2021)
 Gallery – Charles Mingus
 Nanopublication – Charles Mingus – Digital Image
 Documentation – aqc0229_img_full_2500x2500_webp
 Nanopublication – Charles Mingus – Physical Specifications
 Nanopublication – Charles Mingus – Symbolic Transliteration of Bass and Contradiction
 Nanopublication – Charles Mingus – Positioning within Untamed Creations

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

oak sculpture	Charles Mingus tribute	carved wood art
jazz bassist sculpture	vertical wood carving	
Untamed Creations	contemporary wood sculpture	
bass string symbolism	single log carving	Arnaud Quercy

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	direct observation
Methodology	subtractive sculpture
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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