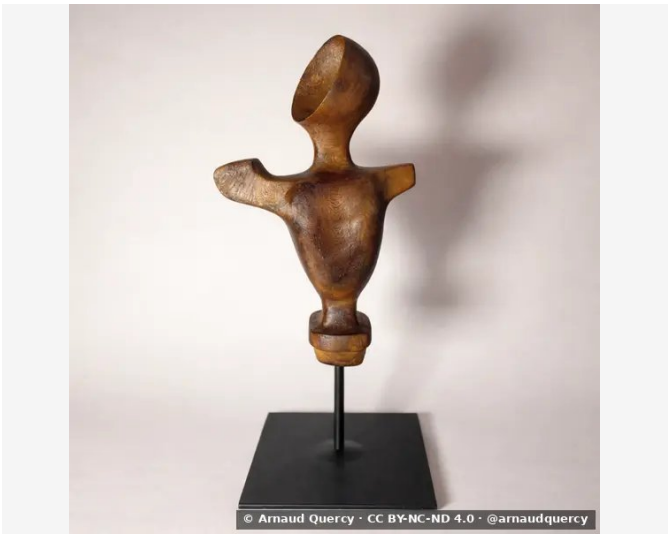
AQC0336 | NAN-CTX000095

Nanopublication — Wood PLA as Medium for Folkloric Materiality

by Arnaud Quercy · Noppera - bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road · 2021



CLAIM 3: WOOD PLA AS MEDIUM FOR FOLKLORIC MATERIALITY

Wood [2] PLA filament allows the supernatural subject to inhabit a liminal material state—neither fully plastic nor fully wood, creating visual ambiguity that echoes the yōkai's ontological uncertainty. The hand [4]-polished surface and applied wood patina bridge digital fabrication with traditional craft finishing techniques.

CONTEXT

Wood PLA (polylactic acid composite with wood fiber content) presents a deliberately hybrid materiality: thermoplastic polymer infused with wood particles that create grain-like visual texture and allow wood-finishing techniques. This material liminality—neither traditional wood nor pure plastic—creates conceptual resonance with the yōkai subject matter, entities that exist between categories (human/non-human, visible/invisible, material/immaterial).

The Geeetech Wood PLA filament used for this sculpture contains wood fiber particles that become visible during printing, creating surface texture that mimics wood grain without being actual carved wood. This pseudo-wood character mirrors the noppera [1]-bō's pseudo-human appearance: something that presents as familiar material (wood, human face) while fundamentally being otherwise (composite plastic, faceless void).

My finishing process bridges digital fabrication with traditional craft approaches:

1. **3D printing** using fused deposition modeling, where the wood PLA filament is extruded layer by layer to build the form from digital coordinates 2. **Hand sanding and polishing** to smooth layer lines and reveal the wood-fiber content in the material surface 3. **Wood patina application** using traditional finishing techniques to deepen the wood-like appearance and add color variation 4. **Wax finish** to seal and protect the surface while creating subtle sheen

This hybrid methodology—computational design, automated fabrication, hand finishing—reflects my broader practice of working **between** traditional and contemporary making modes. The sculpture emerges from algorithmic precision but concludes in manual, tactile engagement with material surfaces.

The final object exists in productive ambiguity: it reads as "wooden" from visual distance due to grain-like texture and warm brown coloration, but closer inspection reveals its composite nature—the slight sheen of thermoplastic, the geometric regularity of printed layers beneath the hand-worked surface. This material uncertainty supports the conceptual content: an entity that appears one thing while being fundamentally other.

The black cylindrical base and metal support rod provide material contrast, anchoring the wood-like figure in unambiguous industrial materials and creating formal hierarchy: the yōkai form emerges from clearly contemporary infrastructure, much as folklore persists within contemporary cultural consciousness.

REFERENCES

[1] Arnaud Quercy (2021). Noppera - bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road — Catalog raisonné. https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0336.html

[2] Technical specifications: Geeetech Wood PLA filament, printed via fused deposition modeling (FDM), layer height 0.2mm, infill 15%.

[3] Artwork documentation: AQC0336, "Noppera-bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road," 2021. Wood PLA on metal, 20.5×12.0×12.0cm (sculpture); 29cm total height with

base. Weight: 80g (sculpture), 440g (with base). Collection: Spells and Magic. Private collection, Schmitten, Germany.

[4] Finishing process: Hand-polished with progressive grits (220, 400, 600), wood patina applied, wax finish for surface protection and sheen.

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: Myths & Legends

Collection: Spells and Magic

Technique: 3D Printed Wood PLA

EXHIBITIONS

Transcendence - World Premiere of Ephemera Arts (2023-10-29 → 2023-11-15, Koblenzer Kunstverein e.V., Koblenz)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

The Alchemist

The Alchemist - Variations on Zosimos of panopolis theme

The myth of Kyrnos

The Centaur of Pompeii

Psyche Unveiled

The alchemist

The Dance of the Siblings - The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis

Archimedes, the owl

GRIMOIRE

DOCUMENTED AT

Catalogue Raisonné — Noppera - bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road — Noppera-bō — 3D Printed Wood Sculpture — Arnaud Quercy (2021)

Gallery — Noppera - bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road

Nanopublication — Noppera - bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road — Physical Specifications

Nanopublication — Noppera - bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road — Ideamorphic Translation of Folklore Through Material

Nanopublication — Noppera - bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road — Cubist Abstraction as Codex for Supernatural Subjects

Nanopublication — Noppera - bo - The Mujina of the Akasaka Road — Digital Image Documentation - aqc0336_img_full_1024x1024_webp

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

3D printed wood PLA · Japanese folklore sculpture · noppera-bō artwork · faceless yōkai · Lafcadio Hearn inspired · geometric reduction · Spells and Magic collection · cubist mythology · digital fabrication sculpture · Arnaud Quercy · contemporary folklore art · additive manufacturing art

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	embodied practice
Methodology	material experimentation
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

c69a67a647bfaf4e1917143b5d1eab92bceb2670fcf3207a1bf245c0c5a908ad

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

Artist	Arnaud Quercy
Date	2021
Collection	Spells and Magic
Certificate	20221231-0006
Asset code	AQC0336
Identifier	NAN-CTX000095
Version	1
Published	2026-02-11

ISSN: [pending — Library of Congress]

© 2026 Multimodal Institute

Published by Art Quam Anima Publishing New York,
an imprint of AQA PUBLISHING LLC

c/o Northwest Registered Agent, 418 Broadway Ste N
Albany, NY 12207, USA
+1 917-764-5470

publishing.artquamanima.com

Last updated: 2026-06-11

Persistent URI: https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2026/02/AQC0336-wood-pla-as-medium-for-folkloric-materiality.pdf