

Art & Love: A Great Combination *By Peggy Stortz*



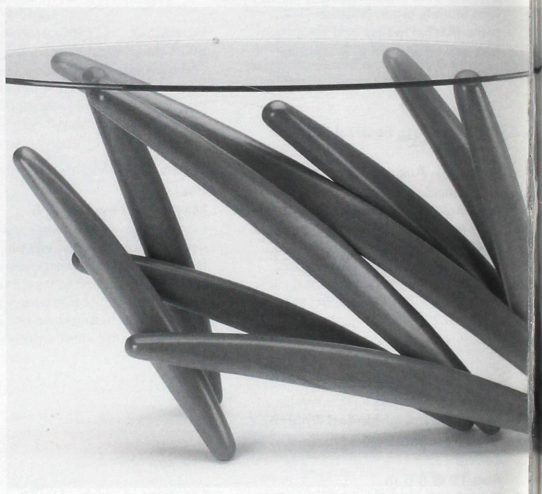
A little west of 1st and Lonsdale, in the courtyard between the two new residential towers called the TIME Building, stands a clock perched atop a cascade of stain-

less steel cylinders. Around the walls of the towers, are twenty-eight brass medallions, each representing a phase of the moon. These sculptures are the work of North Vancouver artist Peter Pierobon.

Pierobon grew up in North Vancouver but left in 1980 to pursue studies in sculptural furniture design. He attended the Wendell Castle School near Rochester New York and on completion of his courses, continued living in the United States. Eventually he was offered teaching positions in Philadelphia and later San Francisco. But after twenty years in the United States, Pierobon was restless. For a while he traveled, trying to decide what to do next.

During this time, he visited the North Shore and, through friends, met Sibeal (pronounced Shi-bale) Foyle, a local painter and instructor at Kwantlen College. On their first date, Pierobon was delighted that she not only understood his artistic spirit, but also recognized the names of artists, living and dead, whom he considered his influences. His friendship with Foyle was the last little push he needed to come back to North Vancouver.

In time, Pierobon and Foyle married and purchased an old building in Lower Lonsdale to house their studios. While Peter explored new techniques in furniture making, Sibeal painted huge canvasses in bright bold colours. "Furniture is a pre-meditated process for the most part. You can see what you're going to do and then you do it," says Pierobon. "Sibeal's much more intuitive. She works in the moment. She doesn't even know where she's going to go or what's she going to do until she gets started. As she gets into the painting, it evolves. It's fascinating for me to watch, but it's something I can't really understand." Despite their different approaches to art, they have much in common.



Both were influenced by their childhood environments. When Pierobon was young, he was fascinated by the artwork of the First Nations people, especially the way they made their functional objects, like bowls and paddles, into works of art. Using this concept, Pierobon began to carve images like shorthand glyphs, runes, musical symbols and even hand signs onto his furniture. Often the messages were dictated by his clients, including American writer Stephen King. Since his return to Canada, the beauty and motion of nature have been influencing his designs – a leaping salmon perhaps or a random scattering of bleached logs.