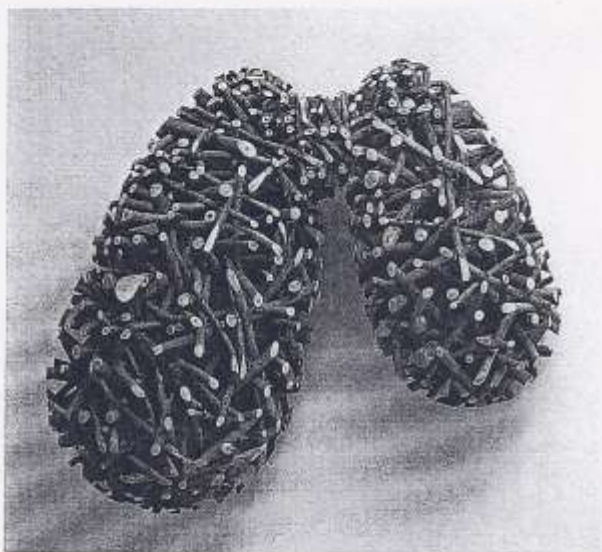


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Left, Brad Miller: Expanders, 1997, wood and screws, 52 by 40 by 25 inches. Photo courtesy Robischon Gallery.

If there is a defining characteristic in Denver's art scene it is the inordinately high number of artist-run galleries. At present there are seven; Edge and Ilk are the most ambitious and innovative.

warehouses and turn-of-the-century storefronts received a major economic boost when the city erected Coors Field, the new baseball stadium, in its heart. Unfortunately, that mammoth facility has become more of a liability than an asset to the struggling galleries, as rents have increased three-fold and area streets and parking lots are frequently crammed with revelers. The situation will likely worsen when the new basketball/hockey stadium, which the city recently contracted for, is added to the mix some time before the millennium. Consequently a number of galleries have already moved or are planning to move to other parts of the city.

Chief among the local venues is Robischon Gallery, which, for the time being, intends to remain in LoDo. For over two decades, Robischon has organized powerful solo and group shows of work by some of the region's better artists, including Brad Miller, with his organic forms carved from bound branches and kneaded of clay; Lorre Hoffman, who constructs obsessive sculptures of schoolhouses and boats; Trine Bumiller, with lush abstract paintings; Wes Hempel, who paints in divergent styles, including a literary realism; Jack Balas, whose imagery leans toward poetry; Chuck Forsman, a painter of contemporary vistas of vast landscapes and imposing dams; and Terry Maker, with her already-noted strange juxtapositions of objects. Robischon also represents a number of impressive nonlocal artists, including Manuel Neri, Mario Reis and Creighton Michael. Most recently the gallery has begun representing the estate of Robert Motherwell, as well as showing Christo and Jeanne Claude, who lately have come to seem like local artists due to their many visits to the area in anticipation of their *Over the River* project slated for the year 2001. (The