

Fletcher Benton

Los Angeles

This overview of works by San Francisco-based sculptor Fletcher Benton, on view from the 3rd of this month through April 20, contains nearly three dozen steel sculptures, mixed-media works, and maquettes for large-scale works. Dating from 1992 to 2000, the pieces illuminate Benton's constructivist, as well as his endearingly quotidian, inspirations.

With most of the small to modestly scaled objects, Benton displays his skill in balancing heavy cubic, cylindrical, and spherical forms with much thinner rods, rings, and L-shaped objects. (The latter elements sometimes suggest letters that have exploded into pieces.) The best of them, like *Cologne Construct 22* (1995), gracefully lurch upward, with the hefty forms almost magically supported by slender angled rings or vertical rods.

Three small-scale works (each approximately 19 by 18 by 6 inches), part of a series titled "Truckin Geo," find roots on the road. The steel objects, with their warm gray patina, resemble industrial or sporty vehicles as seen through a filter of geometric abstraction. They have cylinder wheels and flatbeds, and number ten in the series boasts curving tendrils that resemble flame graphics on a hot rod. Perched on angled wedges, these sculptures appear to be ready to roll their way through a constructivist soapbox derby.



Fletcher Benton,
Cologne Construct 22,
1995, steel,
58" x 42" x 33".