

MODERN LUXURY

# NS

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## SOCIETY & CULTURE



**ACE IT** Way before Michael Bauernmeister's work was being collected by museums such as the Renwick Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, he was sitting in seventh-grade art class making little figures out of clay while the rest of the class moved on to other projects. "There's something about manipulating form in three dimensions that just feels right to me," he says. After college and 10 years working in wood and furniture design, Bauernmeister found a home creating carved and painted sculpture. Observing the natural world—a blue, cloudy sky reflecting off the surface of water—provided the inspiration for "Big and Blue." Bauernmeister will bring his sculptures to this year's American Craft Expo, where his decorative artistry will fit in nicely with the collections of handmade jewelry and art objects from artisans across the country. *Sept. 15-17, tickets \$13-\$15; Benefit Preview Party Sept. 14, 6-9pm, tickets \$175-\$200; Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, [americancraftexpo.org](http://americancraftexpo.org) - Megan Stringer*

This 18-inch sculpture, "Big and Blue," was hand-carved from linden wood and painted with green acrylic. It sold for \$2,100.

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**PLUS**  
Political Power Couple,  
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