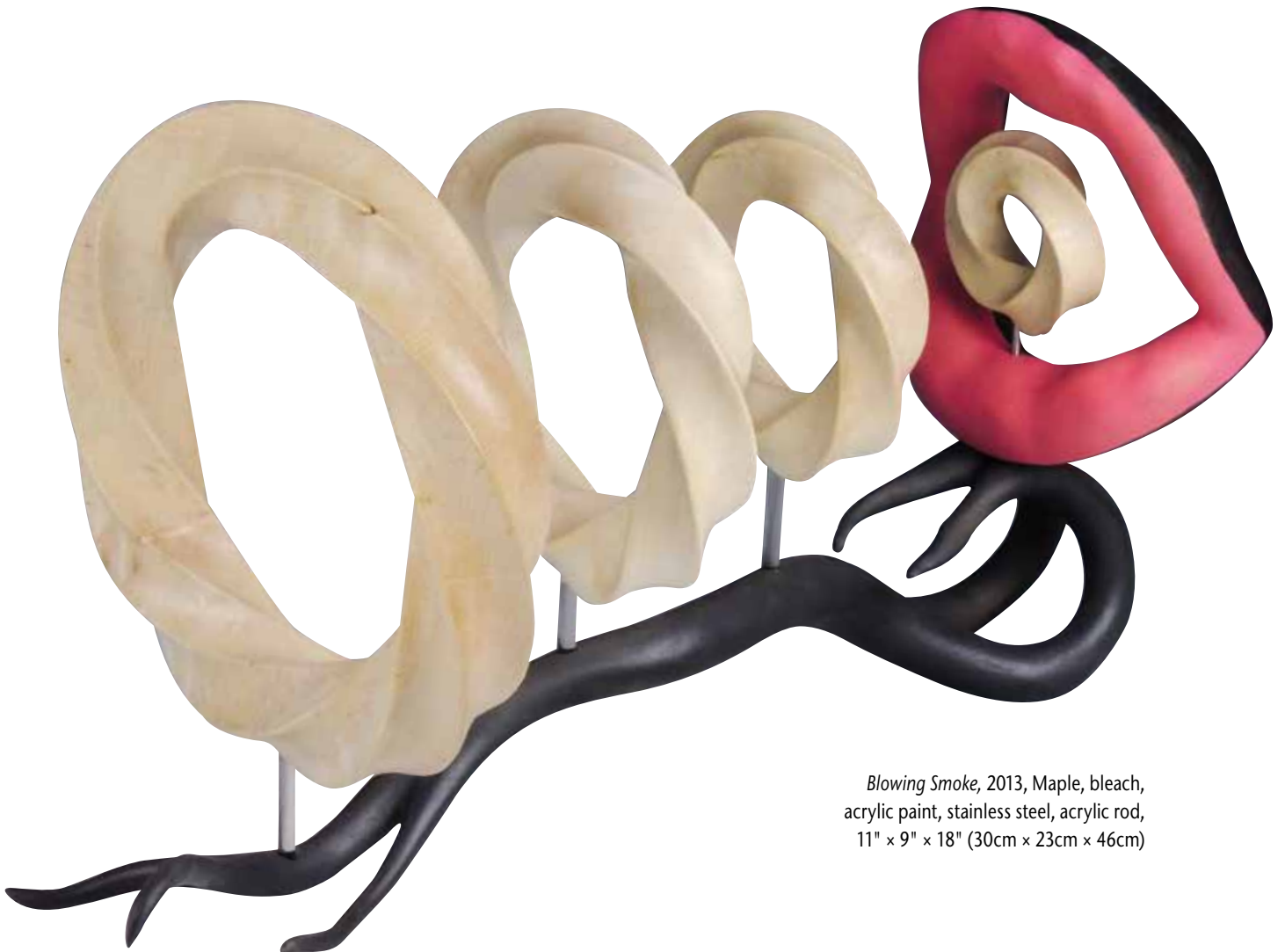


MICHAEL FOSTER

I have been exploring a class of forms that are derived from what mathematicians term *torus knots*. Tracing one edge of a smoke ring reveals a continuous line, which, if transformed into string, would become a knot. The surface that results from joining the edges is continuous, similar to a Möbius strip. The edges all lie on the surface of a torus (donut), hence the class of forms is known as torus knots.

Mathematicians have a naming convention for torus knots in which the first number denotes the number of times the edge passes through the center of the torus and the second number denotes the number of times the edge circuits the torus.

The inspiration for this piece came from comments I received about similar pieces I made that the form looked like a smoke ring. An image formed in my mind and I just had to make it come to life.



Blowing Smoke, 2013, Maple, bleach,
acrylic paint, stainless steel, acrylic rod,
11" x 9" x 18" (30cm x 23cm x 46cm)