

SHANE
CAMPBELL
GALLERY

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Alma Allen Has Come a Long Way

by *Alix Browne*



Not Yet Titled, 2014 by Alma Allen
Bronze
16 x 9 x 10 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Blum & Poe

Alma Allen started small. The shy and somewhat reclusive self-taught artist sold his early talisman-like sculptures off of an ironing board

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pitched on the streets of SoHo in the '90s and the cast bronze bowls and table top objects he makes out of his studio in Joshua Tree, CA are widely coveted. This weekend, however, Allen's profile received a big boost when his first solo gallery show in Los Angeles opened at **Blum & Poe**. Fittingly, the work—elegant, amorphous pieces made of marble, travertine and Claro walnut—is major, with some of the sculptures weighing in at several tons. A compulsive chiseler, Allen was crippled in recent years by a severe case of carpal tunnel syndrome and to this day can only work for a couple hours at a time, so the large-scale work was fabricated with the assistance of a giant robot, originally designed for the automotive industry. Nevertheless, in every lump, bump and curve, the artist is decidedly present.



Not Yet Titled, 2014 by Alma Allen
Yule marble, cedar pedestal
81 x 63 x 14 inches
Pedestal Dimensions: 10 x 34 3/4 x 12 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Blum & Poe

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Not Yet Titled, 2014 by Alma Allen
Claro walnut
35 x 32 x 52 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Blum & Poe



Not Yet Titled, 2014 by Alma Allen
Bronze, cedar pedestal
53 3/4 x 20 x 20 1/2 inches
Pedestal Dimensions: 23 x 23 x 23
inches
Courtesy of the artist and Blum & Poe

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Not Yet Titled, 2014 by Alma Allen
Red travertine
59 x 38 x 29 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Blum & Poe



Not Yet Titled, 2014 by Alma Allen
Claro walnut
25 3/4 x 36 1/2 x 28 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Blum & Poe

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