

Mark Jenkins

„**Otto Scherer - Flying Free**“, Washington Post 08.Jan. 2014

With their sleek and shiny forms, Otto Scherer's works evoke the streamlined metal sculptures of an acknowledged influence, Constantin Brancusi. But Scherer's principal material is actually ceramic, as he occasionally discloses by cutting his simple objects open. "Homage to Brancusi" is a set of spheres, split in half and mounted so the two sides don't align. Such disruptions are characteristic of the Romanian-born German artist, whose work's Bauhaus-style simplicity can be subject to assault. His "Homage to Fontana," mostly coated in black, looks like a ball that exploded.

Scherer often plates his pieces with platinum or gold, but sometimes leaves them a tan color that simulates smoothly sanded wood. (When he uses real wood, it's often rough-hewn.) Torpedo shapes are common in the artist's work, and his creations include super-efficient wood-burning stoves with the contours of vertical torpedoes. While no such practical items are included in this show, Scherer's first in North America, the influence of industrial design is evident. The artist's standing and hanging works are cleanly precise, yet sometimes cleaved by whimsy.