

WOODWORKING

At the beginning, the artist had been working with hollow chisels and could get thin lines specimen similar to Modigliani's portrait or primitive Picasso's appearances.

Then he decided to sculpt with a chainsaw, directly on the wood. This technique showed a « rough »

Dimension and adirect relation to the raw material : the lines are rougher and caricatural. He directly sharpened characters from stumps or used the roots as hair. The natural shape of wood is used as a creation basis : it was as if wood was living !

The archaïcal dimension of this natural raw gives a timeless disposition to Pierre Merlier's sculptures.



SOCIAL SATIRE

According to Aristote, « man is by nature a political animal ».

That is to say, man becomes a man among the others and develops his potential according to the social context. For Pierre Merlier, the statuary is part of the whole, it is never self-sufficient His

Sculptures are supposed to the heard togheter or aren't family portraits, bourgeois, gankers, UBU family.

But Pierre Merlier kept a caustic view on the described society and therefore he introduced caricatures of the modern world : oversized heads and elusive glances, distended or lacerated bellies.

He often liked representing bourgeois middle class an political class.

Even during the later years of his life, when he decided to give up sculpture art on behalf of « sculpture painting », he painted characters among public actions : football matches, political speeds, old men sitting on benches ...