



The ice-pop artist

written by Brook Stahley

riff \rif\ *n* : a melodic phrase, often constantly repeated, in a musical composition.

riffstick \rif-stik\ *n* : a flat, wooden stick, typically found in flavored ice pops (see **Popsicle**), arranged in patterns to create furniture and art. *See also riff.*

There's just something about a riff. Its captivating pattern. That wonder of notes, so artfully arranged. If you've ever heard a piece by [Parker](#), or [Pachelbel](#), or [Deep Purple](#), you know what I'm talking about. And why, when you see a table or chair created by David Hrobowski, you'll instantly appreciate why he calls the material he uses to make them "riffsticks".

Just like their musical counterparts, David's pieces are carefully composed to surprise and delight. It's just that, instead of notes, David stacks and swirls thousands of Popsicle sticks in some seriously spellbinding combinations.

And if the gently spun patterns don't get you, the story behind them sure will. As a child in St. Louis, David received a box of craft sticks from a family friend to keep him busy while sick at home. It wasn't long before he was making table lamps and shades, earning him a bit of local celebrity—and Popsicle money—in the process.

But the inspiration, and inclination, to create soon melted away. By the time he moved to L.A. decades later, David had all but forgotten his Popsicle-painted past. Then, on a random trip to a craft store in 2007, those memories—and that urge to create—came flooding back.



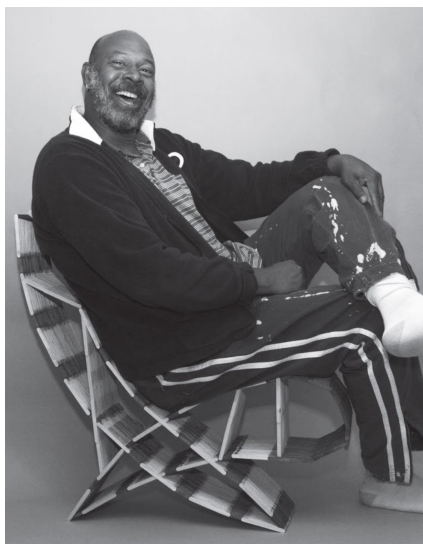
“I’m always thinking of new riffs—
and new formations.”

And new pieces have been popping up ever since. Lamps. Chairs. Screens. A table that took more than a year and a half to complete. Each featuring its own one-of-a-kind riff. And each one a work of art.

Over the past few years, David has branched out to other wood-based materials—including chopsticks, which he’s used to create a spectacular chandelier. Of course, I just had to acknowledge the ice-cold elephant in the room: does David even like Popsicles? “Are you kidding? I love them! Cherry, strawberry—anything red.”

As an artist, David says, “I’m always thinking of new riffs—and new formations. It’s what keeps me motivated and moving forward.” And that’s pretty cool.

To learn more about David and his Riffstick art furniture, check out riffstick.net.



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