



PORTRAIT: KATE WARREN. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: KEN WYNER.

"I create an environment that allows emerging artists to connect with collectors," says Sparks about her position as director of Artist's Proof. "It's so gratifying when someone falls in love with the artwork they see on our walls." *Opposite:* A glass-walled home built by modernist architect Travis Price; Sparks is fascinated by his eco-friendly approach to design.

There are two types of people who walk into an art gallery: the "just browsing" set or the serious collector looking to find a hidden treasure. But when either steps into Georgetown's Artist's Proof, they all get the same warm welcome from owner and curator Peggy Sparks. The Singapore-born art consultant moved to Washington, D.C., in 2012, where she is known to give animated tours of her gallery, telling the stories of its some 50 painters, printmakers, photographers, and sculptors. "Our artists are just as important as our clients," she says. "We want them to succeed, and a lot of our focus is on bringing international art into the D.C. market." Sparks is also known for carrying an eclectic mix of local artists' work like Craig Cahoon's Rothko-inspired color studies and Craig Schaffer's hard-edged bronze sculptures. "When you pair artists together, it becomes a really interesting story," Sparks says. This fall, Sparks is expanding with the opening of an intimate glass-enclosed gallery space and sculpture garden on Wisconsin Avenue—designed by modernist Georgetown architect Travis Price. *aproof.net; 202.803.2782*

Sparks carries the work of Washington, D.C.-based artist and sculptor Craig Schaffer, known for his intricate bronze and marble pieces. Based on fractals, *Cloning Around*, shown, is part of his latest series.



STORY TELLER

PEGGY SPARKS



I BECAME INTERESTED IN ART WHEN...

I discovered that I had a strong appreciation for the artistic aptitude of my peers and the beauty of the visual aesthetic. From that moment on, I knew I wanted to be involved in the art world.

ARCHITECTURAL PERIOD YOU FIND MOST ENGAGING:

The green building movement that is now taking place fascinates me. A city covered with green roofs is organic and beautiful.

A WELL-DESIGNED HOME IS:

Filled with art, of course.

MY WORK IS...

Rooted in the present. The gallery carries contemporary art from around the world, from established names to emerging talents that merit a broader audience.

FAVORITE CITY:

Shanghai. It is beautiful yet gritty, cosmopolitan and provincial, and it is profound and inane at the same time. It is a city that truly keeps you on your toes.