

***Leave a Light On* September 8 – December 29, 2019**

Opening Reception and Award Ceremony: Sunday, September 8, 2:00-5:00 pm

***Leave a Light On* Opens at the Wharton Esherick Museum**

Malvern, PA— The Wharton Esherick Museum is pleased to announce *Leave a Light On: The 26th Annual Juried Woodworking Exhibition*, opening September 8th in conjunction with the Museum’s Annual Members’ Party. Celebrating innovative approaches to lighting, the exhibition includes 13 works by artists from across the country whose explorations in the transformative nature of light embody the next generation of artistry and craftsmanship in woodworking.

Launched in 1994, this annual competition challenges artists, woodworkers and craftspeople to draw inspiration from Esherick’s unique designs, encouraging artists to continue to reinvent the world around us. Esherick brilliantly integrated lighting into his work, as seen in his knock-out 1958 *Cabinet Desk*, which delights the user with lights that turn on when a drawer is pulled open, or his Expressionist lamps whose sculptural forms cast bold shadows across the room. Juried by Dr. Robert Aibel, Founder and Co-Director of Moderne Gallery, Thomas Scurto-Davis, Executive Director of the Main Line Art Center, and Laura Heemer, Curator for the Wharton Esherick Museum, the works in *Leave a Light On* range from the humorous, to the elegant, to the dramatic.



Matthew Shewchuk, *Mane Lamp*, 2019, Wood and LED light, 11.8” h x 9.8” w x 9.8” d

The opening reception for *Leave a Light On* will be part of the Annual Members’ Party, the Museum’s fundraiser and celebration of Wharton Esherick, which happens every September. The event also includes refreshments, woodworking demonstrations, and open house tours of Esherick’s studio and workshop.

Advance tickets are required and may be purchased at whartonesherickmuseum.org/events. Awards will be announced at the Annual Members’ Party Opening Reception including first, second, and third place and the Member’s Choice Award.

Exhibiting artists include: Dean Babin, Bob Brox, Ken Burton, Ashoke Chhabra, Eric Diven, Catherine Emil & Jared Williams, Jamie Herman, Sandy Huse, John Lutz, Jodie Prud'homme, Matthew Shewchuk, Brian Skalaski, and Janine Wang.

About the Wharton Esherick Museum:

The Wharton Esherick Museum, located just outside of Valley Forge Park in Malvern, PA is the handcrafted home and studio of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970) and exhibits over 300 of the artist's work including sculpture, sculptural furniture, woodcut prints and paintings. Wharton Esherick was a leading American sculptor and artist of the early 20th century. Working primarily in wood, he is considered to be among the most influential furniture designers of the 21st century. Esherick's work is represented nationally in the permanent collections of more than 20 major museums and galleries including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Museum of Fine Art in Boston and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

The Museum is open for tours Tuesday – Friday (for groups of 5 or more) from 10 am to 4 pm, Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm and Sundays from 1 pm - 4 pm (no minimum requirement on weekends). Advanced tickets are required, and can be purchased at www.whartonesherickmuseum.org. For more information call 610-644-5822 or email info@whartonesherickmuseum.org.



Photo by Charles Uniatowski

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