

Leave a Light On September 8 – December 29, 2019

Award Winners Announced for *Leave a Light On* at the Wharton Esherick Museum

Malvern, PA— The Wharton Esherick Museum’s 26th Annual Juried Woodworking Exhibition, *Leave a Light On*, opened this month on 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.

Award winners were announced at the Annual Members’ Party Opening Reception including first, second, and third place, and the Member’s Choice Award.

This year’s first place went to Ashoke Chhabra from Tujunga, CA for *Prototype Cubist Table Lamp*, whose angular rows of reclaimed redwood and glass rise from the floor with a wonderful, chaotic rhythm. Second place was awarded to Jamie Herman of Rockland, ME for *Star Stelled Dodecahedron*, a geometric pendant light of glowing wood grain, and third place went to Brian Skalaski of Philadelphia, PA for his graceful floor lamp, *Foxglove*. The Members’ Choice Award, which was voted on during the opening reception, was awarded to Eric Diven of Somerville, MA for his commanding and elegant ceiling light, *Springtime in Bronze*. *Leave a Light On* also includes work by Dean Babin, Bob Brox, Ken Burton, Catherine Emil & Jared Williams, Sandy Huse, John Lutz, Jodie Prud’homme, Matthew Shewchuk, and Janine Wang.

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.



Ashoke Chhabra, *Prototype Cubist Table Lamp*, 2019, reclaimed redwood, glass, 48” h x 15” w x 15” d

Leave a Light On is on display in the Visitor Center now through December 29 and is free to the public. This does not include admission into the Museum for which advance reservations are required.

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

Wharton Esherick Museum
P.O. Box 595
Paoli, PA 19301

Media contact: Katie Wynne
katie@whartonesherickmuseum.org
610-644-5822