

Wood And...

May 14, 2021 – September 12, 2021

Virtual Opening Reception: Thursday, May 13, 6PM

**Wood And...:
The 27th Annual Juried Woodworking Exhibition**

Malvern, PA – The Wharton Esherick Museum is pleased to announce *Wood And...*, our 27th Annual Juried Woodworking Exhibition, opening virtually on May 14, 2021.

Although for many the name Wharton Esherick is nearly synonymous with wood, Esherick used a wide array of materials with both innovation and sensitivity. Likewise, the 26 artworks included in *Wood And...* reflect a broad array of approaches to combining materials in exciting ways. They represent vastly different perspectives, creative visions, and fields, ranging from furniture to sculpture to design.

Esherick's interest in combining wood with other materials can be seen throughout his career. The tightly latticed leather strapping on the *Hessian Hills Chair* (1924) is intimately woven around an elegant, attenuated wooden frame, while the thick canvas belting on the *Hammer Handle Chair* (1938) proves a perfect counterpoint for Esherick's transformation of readymade tools into functional furniture for the Hedgerow Theatre. Esherick's diverse repertoire includes wood in conversation with aluminum, stone, fiber, and paper, and even the very architecture of Esherick's home and studio is a brilliant marriage between wood and other materials.

Each of the featured artists in *Wood And...* understands how wood's essential qualities can be reimagined or enhanced in combination with materials either familiar to art making -- for example paint, clay, glass, fabric, and metal -- or less conventional, like LED lights and rice. First place winner Aspen Golann manipulates classic American furniture forms to contemporary ends by combining glass and wood. Her *Partially Draped Cabinet* features hand-painted enameled glass panels with iconography exploring gender and power, past and present. Second place winner Christian Burchard is represented in the exhibition through *Riff on a Donso Ngoni (Mali)*, his take on a classic "hunter's instrument." Beginning with his nuanced understanding of nature and a wood familiar to his celebrated sculptural practice -- bleached madrone root -- Burchard transforms a wooden object into a music maker by joining it with other materials, including leather and goat gut strings. Third place winner Jason Turnidge was trained as an architect and brings



Aspen Golann, *Partially Draped Cabinet*, 2019. Solid mahogany, bent laminated bars, hand enameled glass, brass hardware, finished with super blonde shellac, H: 50" x W: 48" x D: 18"

that sensibility to his *Factory Low Stool*, a combination of white oak and brass. For Turnidge, the factory is a landscape in which to redefine craft for a post-industrial age, using machinist techniques to create tools for contemporary living.

Taken together, the works in *Wood And...* argue for the vast potential of material interdisciplinarity, which reflects the experimentation with materials, object types, and genres that was a critical part of Esherick's own artistic practice.

Wood And... is a virtual exhibition viewable at whartonesherickmuseum.org/programs/ beginning May 14, 2021. The three artworks selected for First, Second, and Third place will also be on display in the Visitor Center when the Museum reopens later this year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wharton Esherick Museum is currently closed to all on-site visitors.

Details and reopening plans can be found at whartonesherickmuseum.org

Jurors:

Finalists for *Wood And...* were selected by jurors Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez and Samantha De Tillio, along with Emily Zilber, the Wharton Esherick Museum's Director of Curatorial Affairs and Strategic Partnerships. Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez is a furniture maker and President Emeritus of the North Bennet Street School in Boston (2006-2019). His furniture has been featured in *House and Garden*, *American Craft*, and other magazines, galleries, and museums across the country. Samantha De Tillio is a curator and writer specializing in modern and contemporary craft. De Tillio is the Curator of Collections at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York and a Contributing Editor for *GLASS: The UrbanGlass Art Quarterly*.

Exhibiting Artists:

1908 Design (Jeff Tummelson and Sina Meier), Kailee Bosch, Christian Burchard, Jackie Cassidy, Kate Davidson, Annie Evelyn, Aspen Golann, Duncan Gowdy, Elizabeth Heller, Rebecca Juliette-Duex, Kristy Kún (with Christian Burchard), Jill Kyong (with Jim Christiansen), Eric Laxman, Phillip Mann, Jillian Matthews, Delmar McComb, Tom Neville, Philip Roberts, Brittany Rudolf, Abraham Tesser (with Olena Nebuchadnezzar), Travis Townsend, Ruby Troup, Jason Turnidge, Nina Valdera, Cindy Pei-Si Young, and Stephen Yusko.

Virtual Programming:

May 13, 2021 6PM *Wood And...* Opening Reception
June 29, 2021 3PM Creatives on Esherick: Aspen Golann
July 13, 2021 3PM Creatives on Esherick: Jason Turnidge
August 10, 2021 3PM Creatives on Esherick: Christian Burchard

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), an internationally significant artist and leader of the Studio Furniture Movement. Esherick worked primarily in wood and extended his unique forms to furniture, furnishings, interiors, buildings, and more. His motto, "If it isn't fun, it isn't worth doing," is evident in the joyful expression of his work. A National Historic Landmark for Architecture, his hilltop studio/residence, with more than 300 of his works on exhibition, has been preserved much as it was when the artist lived and worked there.

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

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