

Now Showcasing Glass, Ceramics & Wood









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Creativity in construction

In 2007, the Professional Outreach Program (POP) of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) began hosting annual exhibitions of small-scale wood art, bringing together works by professional studio turners worldwide. For 2015, the group will host *Creativity in* Construction: A Collaboration of Materials. which will include work by invited artists and, for the first time, juried pieces. The show will take place March 3 to June 14 at the AAW Gallery of Wood Art in St. Paul, Minnesota, then move to the AAW International Woodturning Symposium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 25 to 28. It is one of seven traveling exhibits for the symposium.

Creativity in Construction: A Collaboration of Materials allowed participating artists to make works using more than one material, but they could also encompass applied surface materials or combinations of a single base material. Tib Shaw, curator at the AAW Gallery of Wood Art, adds, "The artists used a wide range of woods, naturally, as well as other organic materials like paua shells and pearls. Inorganic or man-made materials include steel and silver, light sensors and stone. Surface treatments include ink, dyes, paints, burning, sandblasting and charring. Each piece was created specifically for the exhibition, and our hope is that the artists will use the theme as a launching point for exploring new ideas and techniques."

Forty works will be on display, all sized at 10 by 10 by 10 inches or less, and they range from traditional pieces to more modern interpretations. The artists, who hail from 10 countries, were also invited to document their creative or technical processes, so visitors to the show will be treated to photographs, videos and images from sketchbooks. Exhibitors include Stephen Hatcher, Michael Brolly, Bill Ooms, Benoît Averly, Garry Knox Bennett, Marc Ricourt, and Louise Hibbert, among others.



Garry Knox Bennett, Untitled (#33), wood, brass and paint, 7½ x 4½ x 4½"

2 Stephen Hatcher, *Rapture*, bigleaf maple, zircote, wood fiber veneer, paua shell, epoxy and lacquer, 5½ x 10 x 3.7"

Bill Ooms, Black and Silver Egg, African blackwood, maple, brown ivory wood (from Dale Nish wood collection), sterling silver, Russian CZ stone and fresh water pearl, 4¼ x 2¾ x 2¾x









Hibbert's piece *Macrodontia Box II* is from a series inspired by the Coleoptera order of beetles. "The order of beetles is thought to contain almost 25 percent of all species, so the variety of shapes, colors and textures that it contains is absolutely extraordinary," says Hibbert. "I have always used other materials in my pieces, but these beetle boxes have really pushed my imagination to find ways to re-create some of the fine details and surface finishes the real beetles exhibit."

Brolly's piece People Behind the Wood #2 is the second in a series of works that honors people creating wood art or supporting the field. The work is made from wood, lights and sensors, and features a carved bas-relief set back in a cube behind slats, so when viewers see the piece straight on, they do not see the bas-relief. For the work in the show, Brolly's piece depicts Fleur Bresler, a collector and patron of the arts.

All pieces from Creativity in Construction: A Collaboration of Materials will be available during a simultaneous live and online auction on June 27.