

Wood Turning Center
Contemporary Wood Art
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Michael Peterson: Evolution | Revolution

Nov. 5, 2010 - Feb 19 2011

(Wood Turning Center, Philadelphia, PA) Following the unique trajectory of wood sculptor Michael Peterson over the past twenty years, this exhibition traces the evolution from the artist's early lathe turned bowls to his current, revolutionary sculptures devoid of the lathe. Over 30 sculptures, inspired by the geographic environment of the Pacific Northwest, will be on view at the Wood Turning Center from November 5, 2010 through February 19, 2011.

At this only east coast venue, Michael Peterson will be present at the Wood Turning Center during the weekend of the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show. On Friday, Nov 12th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm he is the guest of honor at the Opening Reception party at the Center. On Saturday, Nov 13th from 2 - 4pm Michael Peterson will be giving a special gallery talk with slide presentation. Each event is free and open to the public.

Turning, carving, sandblasting, bleaching and pigmenting the burl portion of trees such as madrone, maple, grass tree, elm and locust, Peterson creates sculptural works of sheer beauty and purity. He starts out with multiple wet chunks of wood which are carved and hollowed out using chainsaws. As the pieces dry, they shrink and warp in unpredictable ways that heighten their grain patterns and create rich textures. He then smoothes the edges and sometimes bleaches the pieces prior to layering them with multiple subtle coats of pigments which he often times wipes away to create the illusion of depth – much the same way painters do when using chiaroscuro techniques. Some of the sculptures are composed of individual hollowed-out units that, when stacked vertically, are reminiscent of how waves would toss driftwood into unpredictable positions on the beach.



Photo: Rex Rystedt

"Evolution | Revolution honors Peterson for his organic abstract forms, including elements reminiscent of birds, stones, driftwood and landscapes – all referring to the natural, physical realm while quietly emanating a deep sense of spirituality," says co-curator Michael Monroe. More than 20 of his most recent sculptures will be on display adjacent to nearly 15 earlier works consisting of lathe-turned, bowl-like forms to contrast and highlight Peterson's artistic progression over the past 20 years.

Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, Peterson now resides on Lopez Island, one of the San Juan Islands in Washington, where he draws heavily from the surrounding environment. Peterson's work has been featured in many solo and group exhibitions over the last 20 years, and can be found in public collections throughout North America, including: the Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY; the Mint Museum of Craft + Design, Charlotte, NC, Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, and the Wood Turning Center, Philadelphia, PA among others.

A catalogue with essays by Robyn Horn, Matthew Kangas and Kevin Wallace accompanies the exhibition and is available at the Wood Turning Center. Wood Turning Center Exhibition Installation design by Dan Saal

Michael Peterson: Evolution | Revolution is organized by Bellevue Arts Museum. The exhibition has been made possible by the generous support of the Windgate Charitable Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Co-curated by Michael Monroe and Stefano Catalani.

THE WOOD TURNING CENTER:

At its Old City, Philadelphia location, the Center features international contemporary wood art in changing exhibits, a museum collection showing the breadth of the wood art field, a research library, and an eclectic mix of unique merchandise in the Museum Store. The Center is open Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5pm and Saturday 12pm – 5pm. Admission is free. Donations support the Center's educational mission. For more information, please call 215-923-8000, email info@woodturningcenter.org or visit www.woodturningcenter.org.

Programming at the Center is supported in part by generous donations by the Members and Friends of the Wood Turning Center. Included is the **Cambium Circle**: Walter Balliet, Lee Bender & Carol Schilling, Fleur & Charles Bresler, Theodore Bunin & Miriam Karash, Harvey Fein, Richard Goldberg, Bruce & Eleanor Heister, Robyn & John Horn, Bruce Kaiser, Elizabeth Kalogris, Jerome & Deena Kaplan. Stephen Keeble & Karen Depew, Alan Keiser, Leonard & Norma Klorfine, Tim & Sheryl Kochman, Herbert & Mae Kurtz, Dale Larson, Alan LeCoff, Albert & Tina LeCoff, H.F.(Gerry) & Marquerite Lenfest, Mark & Kathy Lindquist, Judson Randall, Greg & Regina Rhoa, Robin Rice, Norton Rockler, Doyle Scott, Joseph Seltzer, William A. Sticker, Robert & Mary Lou Sutter, Bradford Whitman, Anita & Ronald Wornick. **Public and Private Foundations**: Samuel Fels Fund; Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance; National Endowment for the Arts; Pennsylvania Council for the Arts; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative; Philadelphia Cultural Fund Penn State Industries; and Windgate Charitable Foundation. **Corporate Sponsors**: Penn State Industries; Rockler Woodworking & Hardware.

The Wood Turning Center participates in First Friday Openings in conjunction with the Old City Arts Association. The Wood Turning Center is a nonprofit art and educational organization whose goal is to further the growth of artists, exhibition of contemporary wood art, and promoting public appreciation of such art.

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