



Media only: Laura Baptiste (202) 633-8494

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Fact Sheet
“A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection”

Exhibition

“A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection”
Sept. 24 – Jan. 30, 2011

Where

Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum
Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W.

Description

“A Revolution in Wood” celebrates the gift of 66 pieces of turned and carved wood to the Smithsonian American Art Museum by the noted collectors Fleur and Charles Bresler. The collection includes works by some of the best-known wood artists in the United States that highlight the expressive capacity of craft’s most organic material. Works in the exhibition also display the growing sophistication of wood turning, which has gained recognition as an art form since World War II.

Masterpieces by pioneers in the field, including David Ellsworth, William Hunter, Mark and Melvin Lindquist, Edward Moulthrop and Rude Osolnik demonstrate the extraordinary range of expression achievable on the lathe, the medium’s foundational tool. Compelling recent works by Ron Fleming, Michelle Holzapfel, Hugh McKay, Norm Sartorius, Mark Sfirri, and many others reveal the advent of new techniques, including multi-axis turning, the incorporation of secondary materials and a strong focus on carving. Many works in the exhibition will be on public display for the first time. The museum has produced a five-minute film, with VideoArt Productions, which will be shown continuously in the exhibition galleries. It features interviews with Fleur Bresler; artists Ellsworth and Sfirri; and Kenneth R. Trapp, former curator-in-charge at the Renwick Gallery. Nicholas R. Bell, curator at the Renwick Gallery, is organizing the exhibition.

Publication

A catalog, published by the museum and distributed by Random House, is written by Bell with a foreword by Elizabeth Broun, the museum’s director, and an interview with Fleur Bresler by Trapp. It will be available for \$45 (hardcover) in the museum store, online and at book stores nationwide.

Credit

“A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection” is organized and circulated by the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Windgate Charitable Foundation generously supported the publication. The James Renwick Alliance contributed generously to the film, exhibition and public programs. The Collectors of Wood Art provided funding for the exhibition.

The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Metro stations: Farragut North and Farragut West. Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Website: americanart.si.edu.

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Note to editors: Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from the museum’s online press room at americanart.si.edu/pr. Call (202) 633-8530 for the password.