



Museum for
Art in Wood

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**MUSEUM FOR ART IN WOOD AWARDS NINE FELLOWSHIPS FOR THE 27TH
WINDGATE ARTS RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN WOOD**

*The residency encourages an international group of fellows to explore and create new works of
contemporary art in wood*

Photos: [HERE](#)

Philadelphia, PA | August XX, 2024 – The [Museum for Art in Wood](#) (141 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106) has awarded nine fellowships for its annual [Windgate Arts Residency Program in Wood](#) (WARP Wood). Established in 1995, the residency is a two-month experience encouraging fellows to pursue new work either solely in wood, or in other materials in meaningful combination with wood, through research, exploration, and collaboration. The 2024 WARP Wood residency ran June 3 to August 2, culminating in an exhibition showcasing works created by the fellows before and during the residency. The Museum shared blog posts on its [website](#) tracking the fellows' progress and experiences in real-time in the weeks leading up to the exhibition, on view to the public from August 2 to October 20, 2024.

Every year, the Museum awards these prestigious and sought-after fellowships to a cohort consisting of artists, a student artist, a documentary artist, and a scholar. The nine artists selected for this year's WARP Wood are: San Diego, California-based artist and furniture designer [Chance Coalter](#); Asheville, North Carolina-based woodworker and sculptor [Melissa Engler](#); Fairport, New York-based furniture maker and sculptor [Jamie Herman](#); San Francisco, California-based woodworker, artist, and engineer [Jodi Prud'homme](#); Fairbanks, Alaska-based printmaker and mixed-media artist [Sara Tabbert](#); and Los Angeles, California-based artist and educator [Sarah Watlington](#). The Museum also selected Portland, Oregon multidisciplinary artist [Brittany Rudolf](#) as the Student Fellow. Minneapolis, Minnesota-based audio and visual storyteller [Molly Nemer](#) joined the resident fellows as the WARP Wood Documentary Artist, with noted artist, writer, designer, and lecturer [Folayemi Wilson](#) participating as the 2024 Scholar Fellow.

In **Fruition**, each of the artists contributed immersive installations, sculptures, studio furniture, object designs, and research for the exhibition on display in Museum for Art in Wood. Inspired by the diversity and wonder of nature's many life forms, **Melissa Engler** created intricate and colorful carved sculptural portraits of endangered animal species. In their work, **Jodi Prud'homme** was captivated by the meandering grooves created by the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect species plaguing the ash tree population in the eastern U.S. Their work focused on mending, drawing from cultural traditions such as kintsugi to highlight, rather than obscure, these destructive markings in wood. While her contemporaries drew from nature, **Sara Tabbert** was inspired by Philadelphia's distinct urban landscape and created a series of mixed-media prints that combine block printing with wood-based marquetry techniques.

Some of the fellows took a different approach, creating works that play on the viewers' senses and perceptions through their immersive installations. **Sarah Watlington** integrated wood with sound,

cement, and other industrial materials and components to create a multimedia collection of works that focus on perception and sensory disruption. In her installation, **Brittany Rudolph** considered the scientific and spiritual qualities of materials, including wood, to present an immersive installation that merges and confuses the perceived divisions between these disciplines.

Woodworking has always found a place in daily life thanks to furniture and design objects. After thinking of the home and the ways objects create comforting domestic spaces, **Jamie Herman** imagined a home with basket-woven lighting forms, organic furniture shapes, and functional elements inspired by architecture. During the residency, **Chance Coalter** returned to his practice of creating organic, curving stack-laminated furniture forms to build his most ambitious work yet using a rigorously engineered analog process.

In her role as the WARP Wood Documentary Artist, **Molly Nemer** knitted stories and visual thought poems to share with the public in real time. For **Fruition**, she created a multi-media tableau that brings the studio process into the exhibition space, providing a close look at the Artist Fellow's creative journey for visitors.

Midway through the residency, Philadelphia/State College-based artist and lecturer [Folayemi Wilson](#), an Associate Dean for Access and Equity and Professor of Art at Penn State University, joined the cohort for one week as the Scholar Fellow. During her visit, Wilson explored personal research, engaged in open discussions, and conducted interviews with each Artist Fellow in the cohort. The goal is to encourage dialogue among the residents, deepening the ties between artists who are compelled to work in the unique material of wood, while also encouraging research and creative discourse around art in wood. As the Scholar Fellow, Wilson mined the Artist Fellows for insights into the material of wood, trees, forests and ecosystems, and presents her findings in **Fruition** as responses in sound and object, as well as an essay, [titled *What Is a Tree? Listening to & Reading the Arboreto*](#), which [is](#) available to read on the Museum's [website](#) and in the exhibition.

"**WARP Wood** (formerly International Turning Exchange) is a unique and valuable opportunity for artists and thinkers all over the world to challenge themselves, stimulate creativity, and build community within art in wood," said **Jennifer-Navva Milliken**, Museum for Art in Wood's Executive Director and Chief Curator. "Since their arrival in Philadelphia in early June, the fellows have been immersed in their work and in conversation with each other. They [wasted](#) no opportunity to discover the City of Philadelphia, even using salvaged hardwoods and integrating recognizable urban motifs into inspiring new works and ideas. The results of these experiences are shared with Museum visitors in a unique exhibition that never fails to surprise and broaden our understanding of what this material offers artists."

The final exhibition, **Fruition**, tracks each Fellow's experience and growth by including objects produced before and during the program, individually and collaboratively, with three-dimensional work on a range of scales accompanied by photos and [an](#) essay documenting the residency experience. [Many of the works on view in Fruition are available to purchase onsite or via the Museum's website.](#) On August 2, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., the Museum for Art in Wood [hosted](#) a First Friday Opening for the WARP Wood exhibition, where attendees can view the works created by [this year's](#) group of artists.

During the nine-week program, the fellows came to Philadelphia and worked together at the North Philadelphia location of NextFab (1800 N. American Street), a network of membership-based makerspaces. While in Philadelphia, WARP Wood fellows participated in several Museum-sponsored

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educational events, including an [Open Studio Day](#) and lunch at the NextFab North. During the event, the public was invited to speak with the fellows, watch demonstrations of techniques, and discuss works-in-progress. During the two months on the program, the fellows also visited artists, collectors, and other museums throughout the region to immerse themselves in Philadelphia's arts community and culture.

Since 1995, over 170 artists have participated in this world-renowned residency, including American curator and historian Glenn Adamson, Korean sculptor Cha Jong-Rye, and Ghanaian sculptor and fantasy coffin carpenter Eric Adjetey Anang.

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About the Museum for Art in Wood:

The Museum for Art in Wood is the international leader for contemporary art and creativity in the material of wood. The Museum engages, educates, and inspires the public through the exhibition, collection, and interpretation of contemporary art in wood. Founded in 1986 and sited in Philadelphia, the Museum for Art in Wood serves a local and international community. It has built its reputation by providing opportunities for makers and visitors to experience craft directly, through participatory programming; seminal exhibitions and documentation; and the growth, conservation, exhibition, and care of its permanent collection. The Museum's practice of keeping these resources free and available to the public emphasizes its commitment to building a democratic and inclusive community. Visit museumforartinwood.org to learn more.