



The Center for Art in Wood
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Images available upon request

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia, PA (March 2012) Philadelphia's internationally renowned Center for Art in Wood (formerly The Wood Turning Center) announces the upcoming exhibitions **Hooked on Wood: The Allure of the Fish Decoy and Life Aquatic**, opening May 18 – July 21, 2012.

Hooked on Wood: The Allure of the Fish Decoy – Curated by Richard “Dick” Walters, Adviser Gene Kangas

This exhibition showcases modern wood fish decoys and highlights historical works as early as 1900. The history and craft of carved, shaped and colorful fishing lures will be explored with over 100 fish decoys on display: Ice spearing decoys – a handmade utilitarian tool, trophy fish – decorative piscatorial portraits, fishing lures and baits. Families and people of all ages will be astonished and delighted at the utter creativity and craftsmanship in this exhibit.

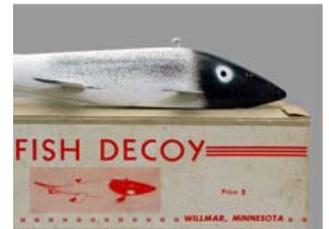
“Hooked on Wood” curator, Dick Walters, writes in his essay, “It is ironic that the fish decoy which was used to catch fish is now catching the hearts of many collectors. Fish decoys truly represent American folk art at its best.” Walters explains that over three thousand years ago in North America – even before duck decoys were used to lure waterfowl to hunters, peoples of the Northwest carved realistic fish as decoys for spear fishing through the ice. Fish were an important source of food. Sheltered by animal skins or, today, a nylon tent, the fisherman lies on pine boughs piled around the edges of a hole cut through the ice. He holds his spear at the ready as he dangles a toothsome-looking decoy fish to attract a larger predatory fish. He manipulates the decoy in a life-like manner and draws his prey in close enough to spear.

Walters continues, form and function are the elements by which a decoy is judged. Today, however, fish decoys are also appreciated for their beauty as polychrome sculptures and are also evaluated on their ability to move in the water like real fish. “Hooked on Wood” exhibition will include premier examples designed specifically for fishing in Chautauqua Lake in western New York, Mt. Clemens and Cadillac, Michigan, Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin and for various areas of Minnesota.

A full color catalogue for Hooked on Wood will be available for sale in the Center's Museum store.

Life Aquatic

In conjunction with “Hooked on Wood,” The Center invited six artists to produce new work inspired by and in response to the themes of sea life. Pulling inspiration from water, sea animals and plants, the artists' imaginations dive into the theme to produce captivating sculptures, wall hangings, and even imaginative creatures that may lurk in the abyss.



Janel Jacobson's group of fish are hand carved from a variety of woods using diverse approaches. Each unique fish in the exhibition showcases the artist's skills as a carver. In contrast to her typical miniature works of art, these sculptures are larger than the works for which she is known. In this grouping, three of the four fishes have two-part eyes that are turned on a lathe using mammoth tusk ivory, horn and a dark wood.

Japanese artist, Satoshi Fujinuma's work is deeply inspired by the animals, plants and environments associated with water. His unique forms, colors and textures are derived from his constant observation of nature which began though his studies of environmental chemistry in his youth. The work presented in this exhibition captures the character of living things as well as the atmosphere which they inhabit. - all reconstructed from Fujinuma's intense studies, imagination and his sense of humor flavor all his work.

Other featured artists include: Michael De Forest, Michael Hosulak, Merryll Saylan and David Sengel.

The Center for Art in Wood is an arts and educational institution whose mission is leading the growth, awareness, appreciation and promotion of artists and their creation and design of art in wood and wood in combination with other materials. The Center participates in First Friday Openings in conjunction with the Old City Arts Association.

Programming at the Center is supported in part by generous donations by all Members and Friends of the Center. Included is the **Cambium Circle**: Walter Balliet; Lee Bender & Carol Schilling; Fleur Bresler; Theodore Bunin & Miriam Karash; Harvey & Fiona Fein; Richard & Rita Goldberg; Bruce & Eleanor Heister; Robyn & John Horn; Bruce A. 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; Norty Rockler; Doyle Scott; Joe Seltzer; William A. Sticker; Robert & Mary Lou Sutter; Bradford Whitman; Ronald & Anita Wornick. **Public and Private Foundations**: Arts & Business Council of Philadelphia; Ballard Spahr LLP; Google.com; Nonprofit Finance Fund; Pennsylvania Council for the Arts; Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Samuel Fels Fund; William Penn Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and anonymous individuals and foundations. Corporate Sponsors: Penn State Industries; Rockler Woodworking & Hardware.

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Images (top to bottom)

Hooked on Wood- Harold Rickert, Trout Decoy

Hooked on Wood- Ice Fishing Decoy, Willmar, Minnesota

Life Aquatic- Janel Jacobson, *Buckthorn Branch Happy Fish*, 2012, Buckthorn, mammoth tusk, horn, 1 ¼ x 1 ¼ x 8 inches

Life Aquatic- Merryll Saylan, *St Ives- Aquatic*, Mahogany, Dia. 28"

Life Aquatic- Satoshi Fujinuma, *Untitled #2*, 2012, 6 x 3 x 3 inches

Life Aquatic- Michael Hosulak, *Untitled*, 2012, Photo: Trent Watts