

For Immediate Release
July 2021

Media Contact: Katie Sorenson
SM of Partnerships and Engagement
katie@centerforartinwood.org



From left: Kim Winkle, *Tuft*, 2020; Sylvie Rosenthal, *Swizzle Mallet*, 2020; James Macdonald, *Do the Right Thing*, 2020.
Photos: Courtesy of the artists and Messler Gallery, Center for Furniture Craftsmanship

Out of Bounds: The Art of Croquet

Curators: Silas Kopf and Jennifer-Navva Milliken
August 6 – October 23, 2021

Philadelphia PA: A striking exhibition of artist-made mallets and balls, *Out of Bounds: The Art of Croquet*, will be on view at the Center for Art in Wood from August 6 to October 23, 2021. Curators of the “smashing” exhibition are Jennifer-Navva Milliken, Artistic Director at the Center for Art in Wood in Philadelphia, PA, and furniture maker Silas Kopf, from Northampton, MA; both are amateur devotees of the sport. Describing the show, Milliken says, “This exhibition not only encourages artists to delve into the function, form, and historical mystique of croquet, but also invites them to apply their imagination and skill to the practice of play, framed by the material of wood and the monogamous relationship between mallet and ball.”

In reimagining the mallet and ball, the twenty-one artists whose work comprises the exhibition explore a wide range of topics—from personal artistic concerns to contemporary social issues—with clarity and wit. Each of these artists, invited based on their demonstrated commitment to sculpture and design in the material of wood, were invited to create works responding to the game, its history and impact on pop culture, and formal aspects of the *croqueterie*.

Out of Bounds was organized by the Messler Gallery at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, Rockport, Maine. The Center is a nonprofit, year-round school that offers courses in furniture making and related arts such as carving and woodturning.

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Artists:

Ted Blachly (Warner, NH), Mark del Guidice (Concord, MA), Annie Evelyn (Bakersville, NC), Amy Forsyth (Bechtelsville, PA), Scott Grove (Canandaigua, NY), Michael Hosaluk (Saskatoon, SK), Thomas Hucker (Jersey City, NJ), Katie Hudnall (Madison, WI), Beth Ireland (St. Petersburg, FL), Yuri Kobayashi (Camden, ME), Silas Kopf (Northampton, MA), James Macdonald (Burnham, ME), Adam John Manley (San Diego, CA), Craig Nutt (Kingston Springs, TN), Graeme Priddle (Asheville, NC), Ellie Richards (Bridgeton, NJ), Sylvie Rosenthal (Madison, WI), Mark Sfirri (New Hope, PA), Alf Sharp (Woodbury, TN), Elizabeth Spotswood Spencer (New Bern, NC), Kimberly Winkle (Cookeville, TN).

The exhibition will open with an in-person reception on August 6 at 5pm, in conjunction with Philadelphia's Old City First Friday events. Virtual and on-site programs will be held throughout the run of the exhibition, including a talk between the curator and participating artists; a curatorial lecture; and croquet matches with partner institutions. Please check the Center's website at www.centerforartinwood.org for updated information on events held in conjunction with *Out of Bounds: The Art of Croquet*. Virtual events will be accessible in The Wood Shed at thewoodshed.org.

For more information please contact Katie Sorenson, SM of Partnerships and Engagement at Katie@centerforartinwood.org.

The exhibition program at the Center is generously supported by members of the Cambium Giving Society of the Center for Art in Wood, the Bresler Family Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, William Penn Foundation, and Windgate Foundation. Corporate support is provided by Boomerang, Inc. and Sun-lite Corporation.

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