



For Immediate Release  
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Media Contact: Katie Sorenson  
SM of Partnerships and Engagement  
[katie@centerforartinwood.org](mailto:katie@centerforartinwood.org)



Images: Kristin LeVier, *Winter Nest*, 2019. Photo: Jonathan Billing. Bob Stocksdale, *Snake Bowl*, 1984. Photo: John Carlano.

### **The 2020 Bob Stocksdale International Excellence in Wood Award: Kristin LeVier**

Lecture LIVE on Zoom

April 22, 2021, 6:30 pm EDT

**Philadelphia PA:** The Center for Art in Wood announces the recipient of the Bob Stocksdale International Excellence in Wood Award. Supported by an anonymous donor, this award—now in its fifth year—is presented annually to an emerging or mid-career artist whose work, like that of Bob Stocksdale (1913–2003), unites quality of craftsmanship and respect for materials. For the year 2020, the recipient for the Bob Stocksdale International Excellence in Wood Award is Kristin LeVier of Moscow, ID.

LeVier creates wood sculpture representing an intersection of art and science. With two decades as a research molecular biologist, LeVier views her surroundings through the eyes of a scientist. Her work stimulates curiosity in the worlds of botany and microbiology and encourages us to look more closely at the smallest details of the fantastically beautiful and diverse world around us.

In commemoration of the 2020 Stocksdale Award, Jena Gilbert-Merrill, a current Lois F. McNeil Fellow in the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, will present a lecture on LeVier and renowned master woodturner Bob Stocksdale. Gilbert-Merrill, whose research interest is focused on the history and experience of empathy-embedded objects and materials, will discuss LeVier's work in the context of Stocksdale's impact and legacy, including his quality of craftsmanship, respect for materials, commitment to human rights, and artistic innovation in the material of wood.

—More—

LeVier's biography and catalogue of works, along with Gilbert-Merrill's lecture, will be added to The Earl Powell Artist Research Files in the Center's Fleur & Charles Bresler Research Library. This resource, which comprises artist files, a collection of books, journals, and image archives, is available to the members of the Center for Art in Wood for research and exploration

The inaugural Stocksdale Award was bestowed in 2016 on Jakob Weissflog, Germany; the 2017 awardee was Dean Pulver, Taos, NM; the 2018 recipient was Ben Strear, Grand Rapids, MI; and the 2019 recipient was Humaira Abid, Seattle, WA. The 2019 and 2020 Awards were juried by a committee comprising leaders in the art, craft, and design fields: Christine Knoke, Deputy Director of the Mingei Museum; Michael Monroe, Director Emeritus of Bellevue Arts Museum and the Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Museums; Michael Puryear, artist and furniture maker; Kevin Wallace, Executive Director of the Beatrice Wood Center of the Arts; and The Center for Art in Wood's Artistic Director, Jennifer-Navva Milliken.

#### **ABOUT BOB STOCKSDALE**

Bob Stocksdale (1913–2003) was an internationally renowned pioneer of contemporary wood turning. Known for his striking lathe-turned bowls, formed from exotic woods, Stocksdale is credited with sparking the revitalization of the craft of wood turning and its growing significance as an art form. His signature work comprised smooth, elegant bowl forms that emphasized the natural color and distinctive grain pattern of the wood.

Stocksdale grew up on his family's farm in Warren, Indiana. He began working with wood as a teenager repairing furniture and taught himself how to turn on the lathe. Drafted into the US Army in 1942, Stocksdale claimed Conscientious Objector status and spent the duration of WWII in Civilian Public Service camps. It was in such a camp where he turned his first bowl.

Following the war, Stocksdale moved to Berkeley, CA, and became an early member of the Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc. (ACCI), a cooperative gallery showing work by designer-craftspeople. He was married to the noted weaver and fiber artist, Kay Sekimachi.

Bob Stocksdale's awards and acknowledgements were many. He was inducted as a Fellow of the American Crafts Council; made an Honorary Lifetime Member of the American Association of Wood Turners (AAW); honored as a California Living Treasure; and recognized as a Master of the Medium Award by the James Renwick Alliance. His work is held in the permanent collections of many notable institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Arts and Design, New York; the Contemporary Museum of Art, Honolulu; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the Center for Art in Wood.

For more information please contact Katie Sorenson, at 215-923-8000 ext. 103 or [katie@centerforartinwood.org](mailto:katie@centerforartinwood.org).

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