

For Immediate Release
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Dig 23, 2015. Spalted maple and shovel handles. Photo: Bill Lemke

Tom Loeser: Please, Please, Please

Guest Curator: Glenn Adamson

February 12 – July 24, 2021

Philadelphia PA: The Center for Art in Wood is pleased to present ***Tom Loeser: Please, Please, Please***, opening on February 12. A joint venture between the Museum of Craft and Design, San Francisco, and Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, *Please, Please, Please* was organized by guest curator Glenn Adamson. The exhibition, which presents imaginative furniture and works on paper by Wisconsin-based maker and designer Tom Loeser, encourages viewers to rethink their assumptions on furniture and the space around us, as well as the way seating and environment can impact personal and social behaviors. Loeser's work raises a clever question: *If the furniture we sit on every day were totally different, would our lives be different, too?*

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Loeser is intrigued by the balance between form and function. This exhibition of his work spans 30 years of his career—from colorful, post-Modern objects that play with ideas of art and design, to recent furniture experimentations that combine natural-edge slabs of wood with discarded antique tools and interactive stools that can be turned and tumbled. Also included are works on paper that examine the form of the chair. These colorful shape-shifting works, with all their wit and whimsy, exemplify the artist's lifelong commitment to craft and woodworking.

In conjunction with the presentation of *Please, Please, Please*, the Center for Art in Wood opens *Material Intelligence: Selections from the Center's Permanent Collection by Tom Loeser*. This exhibition, which comprises over a dozen works from the Center's holdings of art works, represents the first time that an artist has curated an exhibition from the permanent collection. In the introductory text for *Material Intelligence*, Loeser notes, "What a treat to wander through the permanent collection of the Center for Art in Wood. The artists that made this work are all material geniuses... Each piece is a skillful illustration of material understanding." The exhibition will run alongside *Please, Please, Please* from February 12 through July 24, 2021.

About the Artist

Tom Loeser designs and builds one-of-a-kind functional and dysfunctional objects. Though he seeks new form and meaning through his work, the history of design and object-making is always his starting point. He holds a BA from Haverford College, a BFA from Boston University, and an MFA from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. Loeser was head of the wood/furniture area in the Department of Art at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, from 1991 to 2020.

Loeser is the recipient of four Visual Artist Fellowship Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and an NEA Creative Artist Exchange Fellowship. His work has been featured in many national and international exhibitions and his work is held in the collections of the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and Museum of Arts and Design (New York, NY); Rhode Island School of Design Museum (Providence, RI); Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Houston, TX); and many others, including the Center for Art in Wood. He was elected to the American Craft Council College of Fellows in 2012.

Please, Please, Please comes to the Center for Art in Wood with a grant from the Furniture Society's EFASO (Exhibiting Furniture and Sculptural Objects) program. This important initiative, which encourages organizations to exhibit works of furniture by defraying the cost of their shipment, also enabled the Center for Art in Wood to organize and present *Making a Seat at the Table: Women Transform Woodworking* in 2019.

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Accompanying the exhibition are several virtual programs including a talk between the curator and artist, co-hosted by the University of the Arts. Please check the Center's website at www.centerforartinwood.org for current information on upcoming *Please, Please, Please* related events.

For more information please contact Katie Sorenson, Senior Manager of Partnerships and Engagement, **Katie@centerforartinwood.org**.

Tom Loeser: Please Please Please was co-presented by Houston Center for Contemporary Craft and the Museum of Craft and Design and curated by Glenn Adamson. The presentation at the Center for Art in Wood is made possible with support from a grant from The Furniture Society through its EFASO program.



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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