



For Immediate Release
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Edgar Mosa, *Round Trip*, 2011. Wood, iron, gold-plated silver. Photos: left, Topher Scott; right, Joseph McShea

Wood + Body: Expressions of Contemporary Jewelry

Curator: Jennifer-Navva Milliken

July 2 – November 7, 2021

Philadelphia PA: The Center for Art in Wood is pleased to present *Wood + Body*, an exhibition of contemporary jewelry by leading and emerging artists who have dedicated their practices to exploring the relationship between the dynamic, sensual material of wood and the mobile, fleshly human body. Both wood and the body are rife with narratives and conceptual significance, rooted in ancient art and literature but continuing to influence the present. In the surprising but eminently wearable works on view in the exhibition, wood replaces the gemstone and beckons for a new way of valuing the “jewel,” while demonstrating the deep material understanding possessed by these artists, who are as facile in woodworking techniques as they are in metalsmithing. As a group, united by the condition of wearability and the use of wood, these intriguing works represent the wide range of creative approaches that characterizes contemporary jewelry practice.

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On view in the exhibition are pieces occupying a range of scales and features of the body—from rings to large-scale neckpieces and brooches. Several works from the Center's permanent collection are included in the presentation.

Artists:

Dina Abargil (Israel), **Adam Atkinson** (US), **Vered Babai** (Israel), **David Bielander** (Germany), **Liv Blåvarp** (Norway), **Dania Chelminsky** (b. Mexico, active Israel), **Attai Chen** (b. Israel, active Germany), **Sungho Cho** (Korea), **Sharon Church** (US), **Julia Harrison** (US), **Morgan Hill** (US), **Lucie Houdková** (Czech Republic), **Marianne Hunter** (US), **Dierra Jones** (US), **Rebecca Kolodziecjak** (US), **Steven KP** (US), **Tara Locklear** (US), **Edgar Mosa** (b. Portugal, active US), **Gord Peteran** (Canada), **Dorothea Prühl** (b. Poland, active Germany), **Marjorie Schick** (US), **Lisa Spiros** (US), **Ketli Tiitsar** (Estonia), **Shamaka Thompson** (US), **Terhi Tolvanen** (Finland), **Babette von Dohnanyi** (b. Hungary, active Italy and Germany)

Accompanying the exhibition are several virtual programs, including a talk between the curator and participating artists; in-depth artist lectures, a panel discussion with leading scholars and collectors in contemporary jewelry; and collaborative programming during the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show and the launch of CraftMONTH by CraftNOW Philadelphia, which is scheduled to take place November 5–7, 2021. Please check the Center's website at www.centerforartinwood.org for updated information on events held in conjunction with *Wood + Body: Expressions of Contemporary Jewelry*.

Several exhibiting artists will have work available for purchase from the Center's Len Scherock Museum Store, onsite and at <https://the-center-for-art-in-wood.myshopify.com>.

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

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