

# Call for Chairs

Title TBD (Updated 03/13/15)



## Exhibition Prospectus and International Call to Artists

The Center for Art in Wood, in Philadelphia, PA, US, is partnering with The Furniture Society to organize an exhibition that showcases contemporary seating. The jurors will consider chairs, stools, and benches of all kinds — functional, sculptural and conceptual. Pieces submitted for consideration should be produced since 2000 and have a basis in wood either in actual practice or theory. All media will be considered.

Artists are encouraged to imagine, dream, and experiment. Collaborations are welcome, as are videos, installations, and performances. The concept of seating should be pondered and dissected with an eye toward the needs and the nature of the 21st century.

The exhibition will run May 1–July 23, 2016 at The Center for Art in Wood, concurrent with The Furniture Society's annual conference, which meets next year in Philadelphia. Selected works will be included in an accompanying full color publication and must be available for the length of the show. All makers will be notified in advance if a national tour can be organized.

### ENTRY PROCESS

The jurors will consider individual and collaborative work — or proposals for work — with a contemporary, twenty-first century character, designed no earlier than 2000. The jury will select a small number of works for the exhibition and publication and may select additional works just for the publication.

With the application, please submit three images for each work — including a detail image for each — in both high-resolution TIFF and low-resolution JPEGs, and an image list. Acceptance of all exhibition work is subject to final review of the actual objects by the jurors.

The entry fee is non-refundable and covers up to three works. The Center reserves the right to use images for educational or publicity purposes. All applications become the property of the Center and will not be returned.

### JURORS

**Nicholas R. Bell**, the Fleur and Charles Bresler Senior Curator of American Craft and Decorative Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, with research interests in American craft, decorative art in America from the 17th–21st centuries, folk and self-taught art, and theories of material culture.

**Ben Colman**, Assistant Curator, Florence Griswold Museum, where his focus is the history of American painting, decorative arts and craft.

**Hank Gilpin**, full-time furniture maker, interior designer, and landscape designer

**Susie Silbert**, New York based curator, writer, and historian with a background in craft and design

### SALES

Artists agree to donate 50% of sales to benefit the Center's exhibitions and public programs.

### ENTRY FEE (for up to 3 works/proposals)

- \$30, current members of the Center and/or The Furniture Society
- \$40, non-members
- \$30, artist who also submits a new or renewed membership to the Center (\$55) or The Furniture Society (\$65)
- \$25, students with ID

**Make checks payable to The Center for Art in Wood**

**JULY 3, 2015 — APPLICATION DEADLINE**

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Entry form
- Entry fee
- New or renewed membership(s), if applicable
- Three digital images of the work including a detail image. Please label each digital file in this format: Makers surname + entry number + image number or letter *i.e. Jones-1-a.jpg, Jones-1-b.jpg, etc*
- Page listing images
- For proposed work only:
  - Sketches, paintings, drawings, or models of each piece
  - 12 images of current work
- Artist(s) statement, 500–600 words per piece, that addresses the inspiration for your work; effect of chosen materials on your process; what you wanted to accomplish; if someone were to experience your chair, what you would like his/her first thoughts to be
- Artist resume

## TIMELINE

**July 3, 2015** Application deadline

**July 15, 2015** Notification of work selected for exhibition

**July 2015–April 2016 Catalog Production** The Center and The Furniture Society are collaborating on a full-color book with substantive essays to be produced before the exhibition start date.

**April 21–27, 2016** Deadline for delivery of work to the Center. The artist covers the cost of crating art work, inbound shipping and insurance while in transit. The Center will cover insurance at wholesale value during the exhibition and return shipping and insurance.

The jury will review all works and reserves the right to decline work which does not fit application concept or expectations of museum quality craftsmanship.

**Catalog Production July 2015–April 2016** The Center and The Furniture Society are collaborating on a full-color book with substantive essays to be produced before the exhibition start date.

**May 1–July 23, 2016** Exhibition at The Center for Art in Wood

## TOURING EXHIBITION

The exhibition may travel for up to two years. Interested museums and other venues should contact the Center to discuss details and available dates.

## THE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

**The Center for Art in Wood** is a nonprofit organization founded in 1986, located in the heart of Old City, Philadelphia. The Center presents four to six exhibitions annually and has published over 24 art books. The Center houses a permanent collection of over 1000 objects, a research library, a museum store and each summer hosts the Windgate ITE International Residency Program. Members receive discounts on special programs and publications and a 10% discount in the museum store. All donations support exhibitions and programs. [www.centerforartinwood.org](http://www.centerforartinwood.org)

**The Furniture Society** is a nonprofit, educational organization founded in 1996 that sponsors a variety of programs that contribute to the education and enrichment of members and the public. Built on a tradition of volunteerism, The Furniture Society offers educational programs, publications, exhibitions, recognition of excellence in the field, and annual conferences. With members from across the United States and Canada, and around the world, the Furniture Society represents a broad cross-section of furniture makers, museum and gallery professionals, scholars, journalists, and others involved with the field of furniture. [www.furnsoc.org](http://www.furnsoc.org)

## APPLICATION FORM

### DEADLINE – JULY 3, 2015

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if applying as a student  
and attach copy of Student ID

### Description of Work or Proposals for the Exhibition

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Materials \_\_\_\_\_

H x W x D/Diam" \_\_\_\_\_

Retail price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NFS insurance value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Materials \_\_\_\_\_

H x W x D/Diam" \_\_\_\_\_

Retail price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NFS insurance value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Materials \_\_\_\_\_

H x W x D/Diam" \_\_\_\_\_

Retail price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NFS insurance value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission of application materials means the artist(s)  
agrees to all conditions stated in the prospectus.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Send all information to:

The Center for Art in Wood  
Attn: Karen Schoenewaldt  
141 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Or email to [karen@centerforartinwood.org](mailto:karen@centerforartinwood.org)  
(215) 923-8000 phone