



THE  
CENTER  
FOR ART  
IN WOOD

formerly the wood turning center

**The Center for Art in Wood**

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Images available upon request

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Philadelphia, PA (September 2012)** Philadelphia's internationally renowned The Center for Art in Wood announces the upcoming exhibition **YOUR PERSONAL HANG-UPS** curated by **Gail M. Brown** opening November 2, 2012 – Feb 16, 2013.

*YOUR PERSONAL HANG-UPS* is a bold group of thirty-eight American artists invited to exhibit a new work that embodies the maker's current visual vocabulary. Rich diversity includes well-crafted contemporary furniture from hangers to coat racks intended for domestic spaces, and contemporary sculptural objects with a twist.

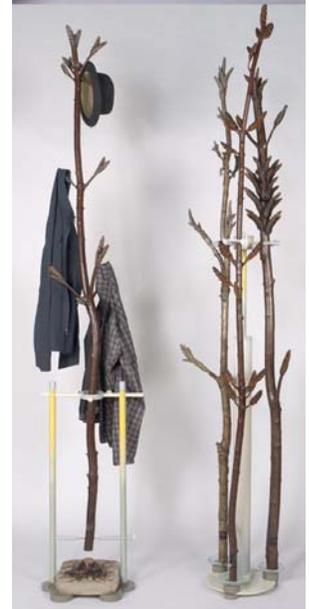
*Guest curator Gail M. Brown challenged the artists in the invitation, "...I am interested in your personal Hang Ups: not your lifelong neuroses, but your (ideal) hat, coat and/or clothes tree or hanger, wall hooks, free standing pole, rack, stand or wall system. And/or perhaps a cane or umbrella stand as an expressive companion..."*

*"We all need visual and organizational 'cues' in our domestic environment to enhance and support our personal material culture. What would be more enticing to attract those cues than a unique clothes tree/hanger/pole or other functional object?"* (Excerpts from the curator's invitation)

This body of work tackles a broad variety of conversations from deep internal struggles to artists stretching the functionality of form as a furniture maker. Others playfully reference past and future challenges or explore the broader topic of craft and art history, all the while playing with the exhibition's ambiguous title.

*Untitled #2: Dress Form In Amarillo* by Leah Woods was inspired by the volume clothing often creates around the body. The faceted, amarillo staves are held together by strips of walnut, also used in the stand. The cloth garment, though not visible, has become inseparable from the stand- the way clothing becomes inseparable from the body, in order to keep up the appearance of a particular shape.

Gabriel L. Romeu's work titled *Personal Hangups, all natural*, has the basic function of a coat rack providing expediency in the storage and access of outer garments- primarily coats and hats. The artist, who lives in the northeast US,



experiences seasons requiring garments of different weight, volume, and of course personal fashion. *A Man for all Seasons* provides great copy for a title, but a coat rack for all seasons? That seems like a compromise. Instead, in this work each 'hanger' conforms to the appropriate season within a man-made 'species' of tree which helps codify its proper identity.

Mitch Ryerson's *Hall Tree*, is homage how artists progress in process and aesthetics overtime. For years, Ryerson's studio furniture has embodied traditional materials and techniques. Recently, however, he became interested in using wood in a more natural state, allowing the forms and textures of the tree to speak for themselves. *Hall Tree* is an exploration of the artist using his favored material but in two different ways – new combinations united in a single piece.

Brown explains the exhibition inspiration was conceived with “*open ended expectations, to entice layers of interpretation, personal riffs and then unexpected resolutions, as well as optional intentions, references and emphasis on or degrees of functionality, the still-present cornerstone of the Decorative Arts continuum.*” The exhibition takes the audience on a journey how a piece of furniture, produced to hold your coat or car keys, may result in an individual, highly personable, thought-provoking experience with deeper or broader meanings.

Artists in *YOUR PERSONAL HANG-UPS* are: Bonnie Bischoff and J.M. Styron; Christina Boy; Michael T. Brolly; Michael de Forest; Mark DelGuidice; Christine Enos; Ashley Eriksmoen; Brian Ferrell; Amy Forsyth; Rachel Fuld; Reagan Furqueron; Duncan Gowdy; Peter Handler; Thomas Huang; Katie Hudnall; Matt Hutton; Jack Larimore; Tom Loeser; Bob Marsh; Sarah Martin; Alphonse Mattia; Alison McClennan; Don Miller; Craig Nutt; Dean Pulver; Corey Robinson; Gabriel L. Romeu; Sylvie Rosenthal; Mitch Ryerson; Paul Sasso; Mark Sfirri; Tommy Simpson; Brent Skidmore; Travis Townsend; Steve Whittlesey; Kim Winkle; and Leah Woods.

***The Center for Art in Wood is an arts and educational institution whose mission is leading the growth, awareness, appreciation and promotion of artists and their creation and design of art in wood and wood in combination with other materials. The Center participates in First Friday Openings in conjunction with the Old City Arts Association.***

**Programming at The Center** is supported in part by generous donations by all Members and Friends of The Center. **Cambium Circle:** Walter Balliet; Lee Bender & Carol Schilling; Fleur Bresler; Theodore Bunin & Miriam Karash; Harvey & Fiona Fein; Richard & Rita Goldberg; Bruce & Eleanor Heister; Robyn & John Horn; Bruce A. Kaiser; Elizabeth Kalogris; Jerome & Deena Kaplan; Stephen Keeble & Karen Depew; Alan Keiser; Leonard & Norma Klorfine; Tim & Sheryl Kochman; Herbert & Mae Kurtz; Dale Larson; Alan LeCoff; Albert & Tina LeCoff; H.F.(Gerry) & Marguerite Lenfest; Mark & Kathy Lindquist; Judson Randall; Greg & Regina Rhoa; Robin Rice; Norty Rockler; Doyle Scott; Joe Seltzer; William A. Sticker; Robert & Mary Lou Sutter; Bradford Whitman; and Ronald & Anita Wornick. **Public and Private Foundations:** Arts & Business Council of Philadelphia; Ballard Spahr LLP; Google.com; Nonprofit Finance Fund; Pennsylvania Council for the Arts; Samuel Fels Fund; William Penn Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and anonymous individuals and foundations. **Corporate Sponsors:** Penn State Industries; and Rockler Woodworking & Hardware.

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**Images (top to bottom)**

Leah Woods, *Untitled #2: Dress Form In Amarillo*, 2011, 60 x 29 x 22”

Gabriel L. Romeu, *Personal Hangups, all natural*, 2011-12, 8 foot x 24” x 24” (shown- Autumn dressed)

Mitch Ryerson, *Hall Tree*, 2012, 6 foot x 18” x 18”

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