



For Immediate Release
February 2020

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The 2019 Bob Stocksdale International Excellence in Wood Award: Humaira Abid
Lecture in the Rotunda, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, New Castle County, DE,
April 19, 2020, 2:00–4:00 pm

Philadelphia PA: The Center for Art in Wood celebrates the fourth year of the Bob Stocksdale International Excellence in Wood Award. Supported by an anonymous donor, this award is presented annually to an emerging or mid-career artist whose work, like Stocksdale's, unites quality of craftsmanship and respect for materials. The 2019 recipient for the Bob Stocksdale International Excellence in Wood Award is Humaira Abid of Seattle, WA.

Abid works in the disciplines of woodcarving and traditional Mughal miniature painting. Through her depictions of objects and figures, Abid articulates themes that are often provocative and challenging, amplified by her manipulation of heritage practices and the materiality of wood. Her carved and painted works, known for their virtuosity and exquisite detail, have been exhibited in museums and galleries and documented in publications around the world.

In commemoration of the 2019 Stocksdale Award, Emily Whitted, a current Lois F. McNeil Fellow in the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, will present a lecture on Abid and renowned master woodturner Bob Stocksdale (1913–2003). Whitted, whose research interest includes the intersections of craft, gender, and social justice, will discuss Abid's work in the context of the values embodied by Stocksdale, among them his quality of craftsmanship, respect for materials, and artistic innovation in the material of wood, as well as his commitment to pacifism.

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Abid's biography and catalogue of works, along with Whitted's lecture, will be added to The Earl Powell Artist Research Files in the Center's Fleur & Charles Bresler Research Library. The artist files, book collection, journals, and image collection are available for research to the Center's members.

The inaugural Stocksdale Award was bestowed in 2016 on Jakob Weissflog, Germany; the 2017 awardee was Dean Pulver, Taos, NM; and the 2018 recipient was Ben Strear, Grand Rapids, MI. This year, the Award was juried by a committee comprising leaders in the art, craft, and design fields. The award adjudication committee is comprised of 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 Foundation; 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.

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