

## Fine Art: 19th Annual Works in Wood

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By [Janet Purcell](#)  
For *The Times of Trenton*

There are some exhibits that art lovers in this area automatically add to calendars each year so they won't let them slip by. The New Hope Arts Center's annual Works in Wood has been one of those now for nineteen years.

This is an exhibit that features fine furniture, sculptural forms and vessels. This year, works by 33 contemporary artists are on display. Jurors Adam Capone and Sarah Cutter chose the works to display from a field of 280 individual entries. There are 67 unique works included representing artists from Portland, Oregon, New England and the tri-state region. It also includes several first-time artists joining local wood workers who have often exhibited their creations in this exhibit, a few since it began.

The show, as always, is diverse, drawing from rich cultural heritage of Bucks County, as well as vibrant and new artists bringing their new visions to the show.

The judges recognized the following artists with prizes awarded in memory of William A. Brewer donated by his family and friends: Best in Show was given to David Washington for his "Misty, a 13-foot White Pine and Old Growth Redwood sculpture of a woman. For the Furniture category: Glen Guarino; Sculpture, Andy DiPietro; Wall Art, Norine Kevolic; Turned Object/Small Vessel, Fred Chase; 1<sup>st</sup> Time Exhibitor, Scott Troxel.

A fine example of the freshness brought in to this show by new artists is Scott Troxel's wood tone, white and black, "Heartbreaker." Working with Poplar, Azek, Mahogany, acrylic pigment and tung oil, he combined various segments in a shape that loosely resembles a heart, but added vertical segments in the center thus visually separating the sides.

Coincidentally, Clark Twining incorporated hearts in his "Mended Heart Nightstand built from Figured Walnut with Maple inlays and Maple legs. Twining's nightstand is



Charles Adams *Self as Guardian 4*

actually a two-level table that stands on three legs. A large heart shape serves as the top over a smaller heart shape beneath. Both have curved suture-like shapes that cross a dark grain in the Walnut.

Other tables that are remarkably designed and built are Glen Guarino's "Stacking Up" comprised of Rescued Northern Catalpa, Bleached; Ebonized Oak; Metal & Glass and Nick Cartaina's Cherry & Poplar "Six Hundred and Twenty Four to One". These are so unique any verbal description would not do them justice. I urge you to go and enjoy them in person.

That is the same for most of the pieces in the exhibit. There are lamps such as Brian Skalaski's White Oak "Foxglove Lamp" that is beyond description, and there is Andy DiPietro's award-winning Dyed Red Oak "Ribbon in the Wind" which causes you to look at it in wonder trying to figure out how he managed to bend and twirl wood to really look like a ribbon.

But then you come upon "Self As Guardian 4" a Blackened Oak, Maple, Lacewood and Hemp chair and you are rendered totally speechless. How can you describe a chair whose backrest is a bizarre face with a wide toothy grin and long straggly hemp hair? What do you say about the armrests that are two fists clutching tall upright spears? The thing you say to yourself is, this is what art is all about. Artists pushing boundaries, always exploring new ways to express their vision.

And that is what this particular exhibition is all about. In addition to the many boundary-pushing works, there are as many where it's clear to see the wood worker's aim was to find new ways to create beauty. Norine Kevolic's Poplar, Birch and Bamboo panels

all have a Zen-like quality about them. They are quietly, peacefully beautiful. Each, carved in relief, is painted with a dark background. The graceful shapes rising out of the dark are highlighted with mica or gold leaf.

Carol Hall works in collaboration with Mark Hall. For their collections of small bowls and vessels, he did the turning and she drew and painted haunting images on all. "Drip," a vessel whose sides are colorfully painted, stands tilted with a Thermoplastic drip spilling out to a small puddle beneath.

And what might otherwise be utilitarian objects are turned into works of art, such as "Celebration" by John Sheridan. This is a wall bar with a door that opens to a compartment to hold wine bottles, a shelf notched to hang stemware and a drawer for the corkscrew. And in a humorous vein, there is Jack Quinn's "The To-do List." This is

a giant clothespin holding a blue-lined pad and a small yellow To-Do List complete with chores listed. All is done using Pine, Birch, Basswood and Aluminum.

New Hope Arts Executive Director, Carol Cruickshanks says, "New Hope Arts 19<sup>th</sup> Works in Wood Juried Show really illustrates the versatility of the wood medium since we have such exquisite examples of a wide variety of forms from furniture to sculpture, turned vessels to wall art."

The First National Bank and Trust of Newtown sponsored the exhibit which was so well displayed by Exhibition Specialist Christine Wohl Ramirez.

**IF YOU GO:**

**WHAT:** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Works in Wood Exhibition

**WHERE:** New Hope Arts Center, 2 Stockton Avenue, New Hope, PA

**WHEN:** Through January 6. Hours, Noon to 5:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday, Sunday and by appointment. **Additional holiday hours, Wednesday, December 26 and Thursday, December 27, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**CONTACT:** 215-862-9606. [info@newhopearts.org](mailto:info@newhopearts.org)

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