

## FINE ART

# 'Works of Wood' come to life in exhibit

Janet Purcell

For Times of Trenton

This is the 18th year of the "Works in Wood" exhibit at New Hope Arts Center and it just keeps getting better and better. As always, the exhibit showcases fine furniture, sculptural forms and vessels.

"What's really exciting this year," says executive director Carol Cruikshanks, "is that one-third of the works are by first-time exhibitors. Jurors Mark Sfirri, noted woodworker, curator and professor emeritus of Bucks County Community College, and John McDevitt, sculptor and designer of Solebury, elected this year's exhibition from more than 400 individual works submitted. The more than 65 works (on display), in a wide range of styles and techniques, present an exciting view of the wood medium in the hands of 40 contemporary artists."

Founded by the late Robin Arsen, the New Hope Arts Center has been a showplace for a wide range of arts in the New Hope region and a place of welcoming congeniality. Arsen became executive director, and the center was incorporated in 2002.

This year's exhibit ranges from a collection of Brandon Spector's black walnut and cherry spoons displayed as you begin your tour of the show, through works on pedestals, such as Andy DiPietro's exquisite vessels, to Charles J. Adams' dramatically tall and imposing figure "Guardian for the Divided States of America."

Particularly edgy in this time of our country's divisiveness, this abstract skeletal figure by Adams is half dark wood and half light, oak and maple. It stands holding a serpent-headed heavy hemp rope while its heart hangs suspended in its open chest cavity.

Nearby is a large wall-mounted "Jupiter" by Alex



"Tides 2" by David Knopp will be on display at the annual "Works of Wood" show at the New Hope Arts Center.

ander G. Kuhn, a newcomer to this exhibit. Using pyrography, the old craft of wood burning, in a new painterly manner, he offers a view of the circular planet in bands of intricate swirls and wave-like designs.

Responding to waves in a different way, David Knopp, also a newcomer to the show, has two large baltic birch plywood tables on display on the stage. Titled "Tides" and "Tides 2," they capture the movement of an incoming wave as it rises, curls and spills onto land. These beautifully laminated pieces almost beg you to run your hand across their surfaces — which director Cruikshanks says is permissible.

Another distinctively different table is Chris Maher's "256 Slab." This is constructed in red oak, low and round, with ebony butterfly joints connecting segments. A blackened steel inset adds to the ruggedness of the design.

Maher is also exhibiting a pair of solid walnut, Carrera-marble topped "Drum Tables." Other outstanding pieces of furniture include Geoffrey Noden's two-drawer chest made from walnut, ebony, poplar, cherry, holly and red palm. There's a white ash and basswood "Tea House Chair" by Brian Holcombe and Kevin Kopil's cherry, wenge and eucalyptus "Kayli's Café Table," as well as his tiger maple and sapele "Tiger Maple Hall Table."

Carter Sio, whose works have long been admired and collected in this region, has a "Wall Hung Shelf" on exhibit. Built in ebonized white oak and curly maple, the shelf, following the New Hope furniture tradition, has a raw edge with a drawer hanging beneath.

A group of three vessels done in collaboration by newcomers to the exhibition Carol Hall and Mark Hall are, as Cruikshanks points

## Works in Wood 2017

**Where:** New Hope Arts Center, 2 Stockton Ave., New Hope, Pennsylvania

**When:** Through Jan. 7. Hours, noon to 5 p.m., Friday to Sunday. Check the website for additional hours the week before Christmas.

**Contact:** 215-862-906 or [newhopearts.org](http://newhopearts.org)

out, "very different from anything we've had here." She says Mark Hall turns the spalted maple vessels and Carol Hall burns, pierces and paints them. The designs are mystic and the piercings and cutwork are expertly done.

Norine Kevolic, whose works have been shown before in this exhibit, is this time displaying her bamboo, cedar, poplar, mahogany and paint wall piece called "Light," which is sawn, articulated and applied.

Another captivating wall

piece is Adam Capone's "Navigator," which comprises salvaged furniture parts put together to present a face. On the stage, you'll find Jack Quinn's baltic birch and acrylic "Silo Scape" mounted on the wall and, back near where you entered the exhibit, you'll find his wall-mounted baltic birch and acrylic "Inukshuk with Attitude" bringing to mind ancient Inuit navigational cairns.

Works reflecting ancient times, those addressing contemporary happenings, and others that are simply well crafted and lovely to behold all are there in the fresh and welcoming environment of the New Hope Arts Center waiting for you to enjoy. It's a good place to get away from the malls and let yourself just relax in the company of innovative and time-honored art forms as well as fine craftsmanship.