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**TRANSFORMING VISION: THE WOOD SCULPTURE  
OF WILLIAM HUNTER, 1970 – 2005  
JANUARY 19 – MAY 4, 2008**

**Brockton, MA** – The first retrospective of American artist William Hunter, *Transforming Vision: The Wood Sculpture of William Hunter, 1970–2005*, traces the development of Hunter’s work during a period of dramatic growth with 30 pieces borrowed from public and private collections throughout the country. The exhibition demonstrates Hunter’s development as a craftsman over three decades as his work progressed from utilitarian objects to exquisite decorative forms in rare and exotic woods. Organized by the Long Beach Museum of Art and curated by Kevin Wallace, *Transforming Vision* will be on view at Fuller Craft Museum January 19 – May 4, 2008. The exhibition and tour are supported in part by the Windgate Charitable Foundation.

Over the past thirty years, wood sculpture has emerged as a field of increasing interest to artists, critics and collectors alike. A medium long associated with craft traditions and the decorative arts, wood assumed new legitimacy as Hunter and other contemporary artists began to explore its inherent formal properties and expressive potential.

A native of Long Beach, California (b. 1947), Hunter entered the field of contemporary wood sculpture in its formative era, the 1970s, and found his way as a self-taught artist. He moved to El Portal, California in 1973, where he built a home and lived close to Yosemite for 15 years. His early forms exploited various woods’ expressive potential and advanced a new direction for the field: away from traditional woodturning practices toward artistic invention and formal experimentation.

Hunter utilizes the sumptuous grains of selected woods for their expressive potential, and he describes the creative process of working with wood as being “as much about finding, selecting and seeing as making. Revealing contrasting layers of annular rings allows me to use surface in

an almost painterly way creating an intimate relationship with form.”

From 1970 to 1990, Hunter created elegantly proportioned vessels on a lathe. In the next decade he began to explore more open forms, penetrating the surface of the vessel and connecting its interior and exterior surfaces. In his recent work (1999–2004) vessels have evolved to abstract interlocking forms. *Transforming Vision* includes pieces produced by Hunter with his wife, Marianne Hunter, a prominent jeweler and enamellist.

*Transforming Vision: The Wood Sculpture of William Hunter, 1970–2005* is accompanied by a fully illustrated exhibition catalogue with an essay by Guest Curator Kevin Wallace. The catalogue illuminates William Hunter’s productive career and explores Hunter’s leadership and contributions to developments in the field of wood art.

Hunter now lives in Los Angeles. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Collectors of Wood Art, a national organization of artists, collectors, scholars, and critics, in November 2006.

### ***Transforming Vision Images***

For high-resolution images of works from *Transforming Vision: The Wood Sculpture of William Hunter, 1970–2005* please email exhibitions @fullercraft.org

Fuller Craft Museum is located at 455 Oak Street in Brockton, MA. The Museum is open daily, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, free for members and children under 18.

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### **About Fuller Craft Museum**

Fuller Craft Museum, New England’s home for contemporary craft, is dedicated to the objects, ideas, and insight that inspire both patrons and artists to explore life through the art of contemporary craft. Craft is an art discipline that is both intriguing and accessible. Its roots are in the creation of functional objects, but today, craft has come to be more closely aligned with the inspired ideas of artists who work primarily with their hands in materials that are tactile and familiar. Fuller Craft offers a collection, exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops and special events where you can literally touch the materials and objects. Fuller Craft Museum is the most exciting place to be in the world of contemporary craft.

*Fuller Craft Museum, the home for craft in New England.*