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(Brockton, Mass.) Fuller Craft Museum, New England's home for contemporary craft  
Museum Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Thursday 5:00 – 9:00 pm

#### FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM PRESENTS

The Stories We Tell: Works by Tommy Simpson, Michelle Holzapfel, and Binh Pho  
March 9, 2014 – June 15, 2014

Opening Reception: Sunday, March 9, 2014, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Reception: free with admission. Talks by all three artists at 2:00 pm: Members \$7 Nonmembers \$15

High resolution images available online at: <http://fullercraft.org/press/the-stories-we-tell-works-by-tommy-simpson-michelle-holzapfel-and-binh-pho/>

The use of narrative in craft is especially powerful, as it elevates everyday materials and brings functional objects to life. By telling a story through material expression, artists help us understand the meaning behind the objects—and how their personal narratives connect to our own. Craft artists employ a variety of media to articulate their stories: clay, fiber, metal, glass, wood. Whatever the chosen medium, the material becomes part of the story, inextricably woven with the narrative process and finished artwork.

For the three artists featured in *The Stories We Tell: Tommy Simpson, Michelle Holzapfel, and Binh Pho*, wood is their main medium of expression. Each of these artists transforms their “tabula rasa” from an ordinary object to an extraordinary story. This exhibition is divided into three separate sections with three separate subtitles: Tommy Simpson’s *Love Letters to the Natural World*, Michelle Holzapfel’s *From What’s at Hand*, and Binh Pho’s *Shadow of the Turning*.

#### About Tommy Simpson

With a career that spans five decades, Tommy Simpson is an “imaginist” who skillfully works in multiple mediums. In *Love Letters to the Natural World*, his carved wood sculptures, studio furniture, and textiles brim with playfulness and illustrate our universal connections to nature. Simpson incorporates text and a visual vocabulary of representational elements (figures, animals, symbols of the natural world) to express his profound reverence for nature.

#### About Michelle Holzapfel

Michelle Holzapfel’s exhibit *From What’s at Hand* presents her sumptuous carvings

that reveal the importance of her process and a deep understanding of the material. Rather than seeking perfection, Michelle embraces the natural defects in wood, transforming inherent flaws into true beauty. Holzapfel was one of the first female turners to achieve widespread acclaim in a male-dominated field, and much of her sculptures explore crisscrossing themes of gender roles, domesticity, cultural norms, nature, and chance.

#### About Binh Pho

Binh Pho creates a mystical, intricately-detailed world in his piece called *Shadow of the Turning*, which is developed to illustrate the fictional work (of the same name) by writer/curator, Kevin Wallace. Binh Pho's finely detailed objects create a bridge between literature, art, and philosophy, while exploring autobiographical approaches to storytelling through woodturning, sculpture, painting, and glass.

#### Current Exhibitions at Fuller Craft

Machines and Mechanizations: Explorations in Contemporary Kinetic Sculpture  
February 2, 2014 – June 1, 2014

SMARTS (Southeastern Massachusetts Arts Collaborative)  
February 9, 2014 – February 23, 2014

The Stories We Tell: Tommy Simpson, Binh Pho, Michelle Holzapfel  
March 9, 2014 – June 15, 2014

All Things Considered VII: National Basketry Organization Biennial Juried Exhibition  
November 23, 2013 – February 23, 2014

Mark Davis: Icarus  
Ongoing

Traditions and Innovations: Fuller Craft Museum Collects  
Ongoing, rotating selections of the permanent collection

#### Coming Soon to Fuller Craft

Shine a Light: Artistic Expressions from Gateway Arts  
March 22, 2014 – June 29, 2014  
This exhibition will feature Gateway Arts, a studio arts center for adults with development and psychiatric disabilities.  
Closing Reception Sunday, June 29, 2:00 pm

Dorothy Simpson Krause: Book + Art  
June 14, 2014 – November 2, 2014  
Reception Sunday, June 29, 2:00 pm

Game Changers, Fiber Art Masters and Innovators  
July 6, 2014 – January 24, 2015

Annette Bellamy: Floating  
June 29, 2014 – November 2, 2014  
Reception Sunday, June 29, 2:00 pm

### **About Fuller Craft Museum**

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's only museum of 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. Fuller Craft Museum is located at 455 Oak St. in Brockton, MA. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, with free admission for all Thursdays from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, free for members and children 12 and under. For more information on Fuller Craft exhibitions and events please visit [www.fullercraft.org](http://www.fullercraft.org) or call 508.588.6000.

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's home for contemporary craft.