



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM PRESENTS

FORTitude: The Art of Play

May 19 – September 16, 2018, Reception and Lecture May 20, 2018, 2:00 – 5:00 pm

High Resolution images are found at <https://fullercraft.org/fortitude-art-play/>

Fuller Craft Museum is pleased to present *FORTitude: The Art of Play*, a multimedia installation created by tiny house builder Deek Diedricksen in collaboration with woodworker/designer/builder Palo Coleman and artist Felipe Ortiz. The indoor playscape is designed to allow visitors of all ages to apply the creative thinking lessons learned in *Playtime in the Making* in a free-form way. We encourage you to explore the various play-themed elements not only with your minds, but also with your hands and bodies. We hope visitors will take the playful lessons learned and launch new adventures outside the walls of Fuller Craft.

FORTitude: The Art of Play is funded in part by the following cultural councils: Abington, Braintree, Brockton, Easton, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Mansfield, Middleborough, Plympton, Sharon, and Whitman. We further acknowledge Barney & Carey Lumber and Katherine Glover for making this exhibition possible. We are grateful to all donors for their support.

About the Artists

Derek “Deek” Diedricksen has led building and design workshops around the U.S., and he runs the blog Relaxshacks.com, as well as the YouTube channel relaxshacksDOTcom. He is the author of *Micro Shelters, Humble Homes, Simple Shacks, Cozy Cottages, Ramshackle Retreats, Funky Forts*, and other publications. Diedricksen has hosted, built, and designed for the HGTV series *Extreme Small Spaces* and *Tiny House Builders* as well as for the DIY Network. Other claims to fame include a gig as a commercial DJ at the legendary CBS radio

station 104.1 WBCN; the author of acclaimed comic strips “The Warped Zone” and “Slugs, Not Hugs;” the drummer for the local band Age Against the Machine; and he is an Eagle Scout.

Palo Coleman is a woodworker/designer/builder who works with found, unearthed, and salvaged wood and other plants to build a variety of play structures, both large and small. His longtime background as a preschool teacher supports him in building structures that are unusually attuned to the point of view of children. Coleman believes each tree is an archive of history; it is this history he brings out in the bridges, towers, tunnels, and other play structures he builds. From trees being cut down in the neighborhood to old industrial machinery being tossed out, Coleman strives to reuse materials and objects to bring them back into a working and aesthetically pleasing form.

Felipe Ortiz’s multicultural upbringing between his native Colombia and the United States has strongly impacted his artistic interests, from Colombia’s vibrant culture, colors, sounds, and dense natural scenery, to the States’ vast landscape and fast-paced urban environments. His inspirations are merged from each location, such as cityscapes interacting with nature while birds and vegetation invade confined spaces of structural formations. The overlapping layers of these interests combine with experience of migration and adaptation to new environments. Ortiz’s recent travels to Colombia catalyzed the exploration of mural interventions, adapting to specific public spaces, inviting the viewer to integrate with the surroundings.

Current Exhibitions:

2018 Biennial Members Exhibition
April 14 – October 7, 2018

Tricks of the Trade: Illusions in Craft-Based Media
March 31 – November 18, 2018

Revolution in the Making: The Pussyhat Project
January 20 – May 20, 2018

Object Lessons, Selections from Fuller Craft Museum’s Permanent Collection
Ongoing

Upcoming Exhibitions:

Playtime in the Making
May 19 – September 16, 2018

FORTitude: The Art of Play
May 19 – September 16, 2018

Objects of Use and Beauty: Design and Craft in Japanese Culinary Tools
June 2 – October 28, 2018

Grounds for Play: Sculptures That Excite the Imagination
June 23 – October 21, 2018

Uneasy Beauty: Discomfort in Contemporary Adornment
October 6, 2018 – April 21, 2019

Context: Language, Media, and Meaning from the Surface Design Association
October 27, 2018 – February 24, 2019

Mano-Made: New Expression in Craft by Latino Artists
December 15, 2018 – September 8, 2019

Donna Dodson: Zodiac
February 2 – May 19, 2019

Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: The History of American Basketry
May 18 – August 18, 2019

Human Impact: Stories of the Opioid Epidemic
September 28, 2019 – March 15, 2020

Striking Gold: Fuller at 50
September 7, 2019 – April 5, 2020

About Fuller Craft Museum

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's only museum of contemporary craft, is dedicated to the objects, ideas, and insights 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 \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and \$5 students, free for members and children 12 and under. For more information on Fuller Craft exhibitions and events please visit www.fullercraft.org or call 508.588.6000.

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