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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

Made in Massachusetts: Studio Furniture of the Bay State

October 12, 2013 – February 9, 2014

Reception, October 20, 2013 2:00 – 5:00 pm, featuring a talk by professor Brock Jobe

High resolution images available online at: <http://fullercraft.org/press/made-in-massachusetts-studio-furniture-of-the-bay-state/>

Viewing this century of furniture will make you wonder how one movement of studio furniture could spawn works so remarkably different. View Jay Stanger's colorful chair designed using ergonomic principles from NASA, which attempts to capture the chaos of life. In the same exhibition, you see a painted steel rod chaise lounge of Eck Follen, which is impossible to sit in. *Made in Massachusetts: Studio Furniture of the Bay State* features a range of work derived from traditional prototypes as well as works that push the conceptual boundaries of furniture towards sculptural objects. You'll find exquisite, modern marquetry in wood in Silas Kopf's "The Aquarium" chest. See a Steve Whittlesey table that includes blueberry twigs from his garden and found shutters. Furniture makers approach basic function with a contemporary flair, bringing to life a surprisingly broad range of furniture from chairs, tables, and cabinets to pieces you don't encounter every day: library steps, a human-sized candelabra, a music stand, a wall hung folding chair. The 39 pieces in the *Made in Massachusetts* exhibition feature tremendous diversity in medium, methodology, and historical influences.

This exhibition takes you into the minds of the makers, their historical sensitivities, like the English baroque era clockwork motifs of Lance Patterson and the Thomas Seymour inspired commode by Harold Ionson. Come reflect on modern technological advances and a contemporary focus, while viewing artists who are the product of great institutions such as the North Bennet Street School, Rhode Island School of Design, and the former Program in Artisanry of Boston University, which continues now at UMass Dartmouth.

Those who have followed the development of Massachusetts furniture will recognize

noteworthy figures, such as Judy Kensley McKie, Kristina Madsen, Jere Osgood, Rosanne Somerson, Dale Broholm, Tommy Simpson, Alex Krutsky, John Rais, and Charles Crowley.

Since the mid-1950s, Massachusetts has experienced a growing interest in furniture made by individual studio artists. Much of this flowering reflects new directions in crafts taking place in America. Concurrently, you see two diverging practices that overlap: (1) forms derived from traditional prototypes and continue to dominate the field, such as custom bench work perpetuated in the North Bennet Street School and (2) works from the Program in Artisanry that encouraged gifted makers to design and build a new wave of stylistically innovative furniture. With "Made in Massachusetts: Studio Furniture of the Bay State," Fuller Craft Museum makes important connections in this story of tradition and innovation featuring works by studio furniture artists working not only in Boston, but also throughout Massachusetts. Their works represent rich and diverse contributions to the field of fine furniture making over the past 40 years.

This exhibition is a product of Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture, a collaborative project of Fuller Craft Museum and ten other institutions that features exhibitions, lectures, demonstrations, and publications to celebrate the Bay State's legacy of furniture making. For more information visit www.fourcenturies.org.

Current Exhibitions at Fuller Craft

Brockton Youth Creates: Artwork by Brockton Public School Students
July 21, 2013 – September 28, 2013

Art of Mosaics: Piecing It Together
July 3, 2013 – October 27, 2013

Reversible Reactions: Art Meets Science @ The MIT Glass Lab
June 8, 2013 – November 3, 2013

Across the Grain: Turned and Carved Wood
April 7, 2013 – September 22, 2013

About Face: Portraiture Selections from Fuller Craft Museum's Permanent Collection
April 30, 2013 – September 28, 2013

Mark Davis: Icarus
Ongoing

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

Coming Soon to Fuller Craft

Made in Massachusetts: Studio Furniture of the Bay State
October 12, 2013 – February 9, 2014

Bojagi and Beyond
October 6, 2013 – January 26, 2014

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

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 or call 508.588.6000.

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