

WENDELL CASTLE / BEST LEG FORWARD

19 NOVEMBER 2011 - 7 JANUARY 2012









WENDELL CASTLE

Night Unveils

2011

Stained Walnut with Oil finish

H75.6 L113.3 W122.6 cm

H29.8 L44.6 W48.3 In

Unique





WENDELL CASTLE

Time Passing

2011

Stained Ash with Oil Finish

H41.9 L179.4 W82.2 cm

H16.5 L70.6 W32.4 In

Unique





WENDELL CASTLE

Moonless Night

2011

Stained Walnut with Oil finish

H81.3 L127 W73.7 cm

H32 L50 W29 In

Unique





WENDELL CASTLE

Seventh Night

2011

Stained Walnut with Oil finish

H82.6 L105.7 W96.5 cm

H32.5 L41.6 W38 In

Unique





WENDELL CASTLE

Holey Nite

2011

Stained Walnut with Oil finish

H51.8 L44.1 W32.7 cm

H20.4 L17.3 W13 In

Edition of 8





WENDELL CASTLE

Saving Grace

2011

Stained Walnut with Oil finish

H48.9 L38.1 W27.9 cm

H19.3 L15 W11 In

Edition 8 + 4 AP



Wendell Castle

Building on a celebrated furniture design career spanning half a century, six new limited edition and unique works by American furniture designer Wendell Castle will be showcased at Carpenters Workshop Gallery in London from November 4th through January 7th, 2012, his second solo exhibition in Europe with Carpenters Workshop Gallery.

Castle's work is recognized for its sardonic sense of humour and uniquely sculptural use of materials, including his signature use of stack-laminated wood. His new body of work furthers this tradition of material based design, while also applying his distinctive exploration of volume and shape. Exquisitely crafted in stained ash and walnut wood with a smooth oil finish, the organic, curvilinear forms of this new collection link it to many of his past masterworks. Exploring structural concepts in a sculptural context, a confidence and quickness of gesture suggest a new dimensionality. Traditional in his design practice, the natural forms develop from hand drawn sketches without the aid of the computer-generated models popular amongst younger designers.

The pieces take form from laminated inch-thick sections, stacked and then sculpted into biomorphic shapes. An ode to his designs from the Sixties and Seventies derived from wood – the lamination process creates a banding effect, revealing a pattern of striation. The formation of these works begins with the selection of the finest timber available, which is carefully glued together and clamped until they harden into a unified whole. The piece is then sculpted, carved and finely sanded in a labour-intensive, highly specialized process. More flexible than conventional methods of woodworking, this innovative process allows Castle to make furniture of virtually any size and shape, achieving a striking range of sculptural forms.

While he begins with a specific form in mind, Castle "reads" the wood's natural grain and approaches each of his pieces as a process of discovery. "You begin to have a conversation," he says. "Unexpected things might happen as I'm digging into the wood."

Castle has continually reinvented himself for half a century, approaching 80 years old with no signs of slowing down. He is often credited as the founding father of the American crafts movement, changing the way we view furniture and expanding the possibilities of design and art, he has redesigned design and sculpture by seamlessly fusing the two into one genre. He is now amongst the pantheon of great contemporary designers, and is currently featured as part of the Crafting Modernism exhibition at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York (USA).

Museums /

Wendell Castle has been a prominent fixture in numerous exhibitions at museums and galleries throughout the world. His work can be found in the permanent collections of over 40 museums and cultural institutions, including:

Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York); Museum of Modern Art (New York); Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum (New York); The Museum of Art and Design (New York); Museum of Fine Arts (Boston); Philadelphia Museum of Art (Philadelphia); Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago); Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington); The White House (Washington)
Musée des Arts Decoratifs (Montreal)

About Wendell Castle /

Born in Kansas in 1932, Wendell Castle received a B.F.A. from the University of Kansas in Industrial Design in 1958 and an M.F.A. in sculpture, graduating in 1961. He moved to Rochester, New York to teach at the School of American Craftsmen and established a permanent studio in the area, which is still operating today.