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A SENSE OF BALANCE: THE SCULPTURE OF STONEY LAMAR

May 18 – August 24, 2014

RETROSPECTIVE OF WOOD SCULPTOR STONEY LAMAR TRAVELS TO THE CRAFT & FOLK ART MUSEUM FOR THE ARTIST'S FIRST SOLO MUSEUM EXHIBITION IN LOS ANGELES



LOS ANGELES - The Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) presents *A Sense of Balance: The Sculpture of Stoney Lamar*, a retrospective of North Carolina-based wood sculptor William Stoney Lamar's distinguished career. Widely regarded for his experimentation with multi-axial lathe work, Lamar's still active practice generates medium- to large-scale organic forms in which minimalist lines coexist with rugged, organic textures. This traveling exhibition originated at the Asheville Art Museum and has been curated by Andrew Glasgow, an art historian and retired Executive Director of the American Craft Council. It will be on view from May 17 through August 24, 2014.

Stoney Lamar (1951-) has been a woodturner for over 25 years, beginning his practice almost accidentally. He had set out to be a furniture maker after graduating from Appalachian State University, until he borrowed a lathe from a friend to try woodturning. From that moment, he harnessed the lathe to further his investigations into developing a sense of line and movement that is uncommon in works of turned wood.

"I didn't decide to be a sculptor; I decided to make work on a lathe," Lamar has said of his transition from a producer of furniture or other functional woodenwares to works of art.



The shapes in Lamar's works are dictated by the natural form and texture of the different woods he works with. Early works such as "Open Form" (1989) are medium-scale objects replete with pre-existing holes and rough edges. These works often bear the turning marks of the lathe, another texture that Lamar deliberately leaves intact on the surface.

Recent works have gained more length and height as Lamar has incorporated steel elements that serve to activate the kinetic quality of his forms. Later works also see the addition of a paint derived from milk and lime to add earthy colors that accentuate the grains in the wood in works such as "Sea Grass" (2013).

Lamar was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2009, a condition that he has deftly integrated into his studio practice. Still creating large-scale forms on a lathe, he utilizes a chainsaw to create incisions and lines in works such as the "Helix" series. Allowing the tremors in his hand to guide his motions has resulted in an aesthetic expression that maintains what Matthew G. Hebert, Assistant Professor of Furniture and Woodworking at San Diego State University, calls "the universal tension between control and freedom."

An opening reception will take place on Saturday, May 17 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. preceded by a conversation between Lamar and curator Andrew Glasgow from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. The reception is open to the public for a \$12 admission fee. CAFAM members will be able to preview *A Sense of Balance: The Sculpture of Stoney Lamar* on Saturday, May 17 starting at 12:00 p.m.

The exhibition, catalogue, and tour of the exhibition are made possible by the generous support of many individuals and foundations across the country. This exhibition was organized by the Asheville Art Museum.

Images above, top to bottom:
Sea Grass, white oak, steel, milk paint.
Courtesy of the artist; *Torso for WT*
(William Turnbull), ash, 1997.
Courtesy of the Asheville Art Museum

Additional support provided by the Antonia and Vladimir Kulaev Cultural Heritage Fund.

CATALOGUE

A 70-page color catalogue will be available, with essays by acclaimed writer Howard Troxler, formerly of the *St. Petersburg Times* and Matthew Hebert, Assistant Professor of Furniture and Woodworking at San Diego State University, California.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

CAFAM will offer exhibition-related workshops and events in conjunction with the exhibition, including CraftLab family workshops on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) is Los Angeles' only institution exclusively dedicated to exhibiting contemporary craft, design, and folk art. Located on the city's historic Museum Row, CAFAM's dynamic exhibitions feature established and emerging artists whose works create thoughtful and provocative visual exchanges between craft and contemporary art. CAFAM's regular programs and events provide opportunities for the public to participate in artmaking and engage with exhibiting and local artists. In addition to the exhibitions on view, the Shop at Craft & Folk Art Museum features fair-trade art and handicrafts from both local and global artists and artisans.

For group tour information, call 323-937-4230, x.28.

Location: 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036

Admission: FREE on the first Wednesday of every month

Regularly: \$7 for adults; \$5 for students, seniors, and veterans; free for CAFAM members

Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; closed Mondays. Every first Thursday of the month, extended hours 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.