



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **The New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association to Hold Annual Exhibition & Fundraiser at Kimball Jenkins**

*Meet the Masters at Evening Reception  
Plus Free Activities Throughout the Afternoon*

**Saturday, September 17, 2022 1 to 7 p.m.**

CONCORD, NH — After a two-year hiatus, the New Hampshire Furniture Masters is excited to celebrate and share the arts at its Signature Fundraising Gala, the *Main Event*,” from 1 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 17, in collaboration with Kimball Jenkins in Concord. The event is dedicated to showcasing the exceptional talent of the Furniture Masters and the work that the organization does to educate and preserve the tradition of fine furniture making, including an update on its new program at the NH Women’s Correctional Facility.

“We are thrilled to mark our return after two years with this collaboration with Kimball Jenkins,” Roger Myers, Chair of the NH Furniture Masters. “With our new format, we’ve created fun programming throughout the day to introduce fine furniture to a new audience. The Main Event is an opportunity to reconnect with friends we haven’t seen in a while and introduce new friends in the community to the tradition of fine furniture making. All are welcome and we can’t wait to see you.”

The free daytime activities and the ticketed evening reception will be held at the Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main Street, Concord, NH. Tickets may be purchased for \$20 at [furnituremasters.org/the-main-event](http://furnituremasters.org/the-main-event). Walk-in ticket purchases are welcome. Individuals 21 and under are free.

During the free daytime programming and open house, from 1-5 p.m., community members will have the opportunity watch, learn and engage with the arts. Meet and mingle with the Masters along with the artists participating in the Furniture Masters' Annual Exhibition. Tour the exhibit inside the mansion, and watch demonstrations of turning and spoon making by members of the Guild of NH Woodworkers, alongside artists from Kimball Jenkins, outside under a tent.

The evening reception, from 4-7 p.m., is a celebration of the tradition of fine furniture making. Attendees can explore the exhibit, chat with the Masters and bid on silent auction items featuring work by the NH Furniture Masters and Kimball Jenkins artists. Artisanal fare and craft beer, with live music and entertainment from Honest Millie, will round out the evening.

The *Main Event* is an opportunity to build awareness of the importance of fine furniture and highlight the work the organization does to preserve and extend the tradition of fine furniture making into the future.

### **The NH Furniture Masters Annual Exhibition September 9 – October 25**

The NH Furniture Masters Annual Exhibition is on display from September 9 – October 25 in the Kimball Jenkins Mansion. The public is welcome to stroll through the exhibit that is the result of a summer-long collaboration between members of the NH Furniture Masters and selected artists and faculty from Kimball Jenkins.

The unique partnership paired 14 Furniture Masters with 28 artists in a three-month artistic exploration, visiting each other's studios and learning about one another's craft. The resulting multi-media exhibition features a wide selection of works, from fine furniture to paintings, photographs and poems, all inspired by the partners' artistic relationship and time spent together.

“These collaborations provide a unique opportunity to deepen the network and relationship of artists across New Hampshire and develop new relationships across mediums,” explains Julianne Gadoury, Executive Director of Kimball Jenkins.

Furniture Master Liz Grace, whose collaborative partners included photographer Nikki French and drawing artist Rob Hirschfeld, created a cabinet of sapele wood whose shape reflects the curves of a fiddle and is “a refrain for the sense of flow and energy which music brings to us. The contrasting woods are a combination of actual fiddle parts (the feet, door pulls and bow hangers) and ebonized wood to reflect the elements of the fiddle.”

She notes that, “participating with Nikki and Rob has been an enjoyable and interesting experiment in collaboration. All three of us brought our enthusiasm, challenges and limitations to the experience so that it became a very ‘real life’ adventure in trying to work collaboratively.”

In another collaboration, Furniture Master Ted Blachly was paired with poets Catherine O’Brian and Jody Wells, fused glass artist Eileen Mae Carter and photographer Sher Kamman.

“We imagined Blachly’s Curly Maple Chest as a Birthday Gift or ‘Homage’ in honor of the poet Emily Dickinson,” said the collaborators. “We envisioned the chest to be a safe place for her poems, scraps of envelopes, letters and other small, wondrous, even heirloom treasures. We hope to cast a spell on this beautiful Curly Maple Chest with our offerings of an original poem, small blank books to give as gifts and several ceramic bowls.”

During the *Main Event*, attendees will have the opportunity to tour the exhibition with the Masters and artists.

### **About the NH Furniture Masters**

The NH Furniture Masters was formed in 1993 by a core group of furniture makers and several Concord-area business men and women. The founders had one goal in mind: to build awareness of New Hampshire’s fine furniture makers and to cultivate an audience for their goods closer to home. The Furniture Masters promote the growth and sales of the fine furniture made by their members through hosting exhibitions, engaging in collaborative marketing and educational activities, and partnering with museums, art organizations and galleries.

The American Furniture Masters Institute is the nonprofit organization that administers the NH Furniture Masters Certification program, the Prison Outreach Programs, and other educational initiatives.

## About Kimball Jenkins

Kimball Jenkins is a nonprofit community cultural center located in downtown Concord, NH. Celebrating its 40th anniversary, Kimball Jenkins' mission is to cultivate creativity, make arts education accessible, and honor historic preservation. The organization centers diverse voices and works to remove barriers to programming for traditionally marginalized communities. Located on a historic estate, Kimball Jenkins offers year round educational programming and community events.

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Furniture Master Ted Blachly  
Warner, NH  
"I Send Two Sunsets"  
36" w. x 34" h. x 18" d., Curly Maple, Cherry, White Oak  
Not for sale  
**Photo Credit: Bill Truslow**