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N.H. Furniture Masters and the Institute of Art and Design at New England College Partner for Collaborative Exhibition



*R: Furniture Master Jeff Roberts with student Jesus Carmona
L: Furniture Master Owain Harris with student Olivia Letendre*

Manchester, N.H. – The N.H. Furniture Masters and the Institute of Art and Design at New England College (the Institute) present “***New Works***,” a multi-media exhibition at New England College’s Manchester, N.H. campus. This exhibition is the culmination of a summer-long mentorship between members of the Furniture Masters and selected BFA students at the Institute. The ***New Works*** exhibition can be viewed in French Hall, 148 Concord Street, Manchester, N.H., Tuesday – Friday from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. now through October 3, 2019.

In its second year, this mentorship offers a unique opportunity for cross-collaboration and real-world experiences for student artists. The students visited the Furniture Masters workshops to learn about fine furniture making and life as a professional furniture maker. Taking what they have seen and learned from the Masters, they reflected to create a response piece in their medium. The Furniture Masters’ work and the student pieces (as well as a select handful of other artwork by the students) will be on display for the duration of this exhibition.

Institute professor Patrick McCay explained that “the interactions and reciprocal exchange between the Furniture Masters and aspiring young artists provides an invaluable and unique learning experience. Largely, the Masters create in materials and processes unfamiliar to the artists. The nature of this creative cross-fertilization can form the nucleus of creative collaboration for the rest of their lives.”

The Furniture Masters and the Institute will jointly host an Opening Reception for the ***New Works*** exhibition on Thursday, September 5th from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet the Masters and the students and hear about their experiences during this collaboration.

A People's Choice Award will be awarded to one student; this student will receive a cash reward and be invited to show their response piece at the Furniture Masters' annual fundraising gala at the Currier Museum of Art on October 5th. All of the Furniture Masters work on display for this exhibition will also be at the Gala. For details and tickets to the Gala, visit furnituremasters.org.

Participating Masters:

Jon Brooks – New Boston, NH
Tim Coleman – Shelburne, MA
Jeffrey Cooper – Portsmouth, NH
Owain Harris – Gonic, NH
Roger Myers – Stratham, NH
Jeff Roberts – Unity, NH

Participating Students: Brittney Bowne, Jesus Carmona, Lucas Grodin, Jackie Hanson, Chayanne Lawrence and Olivia Letendre

About N.H. Furniture Masters

The N.H. 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 continue to spread awareness of their craft into the present, working collaboratively and leveraging their potent body of collective knowledge and experience to stimulate one another's creative output.

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