

**Advance Exhibition Information
For Immediate Release**

Wendell Castle: Gathering Momentum

April 1 – May 30, 2015

Catalogue Raisonné signing with Mr. Castle, Wednesday, April 1, 2015 6-8pm



Crossroads, 2014

New York, NY -- 2015 will be an exciting and notable year for American design icon Wendell Castle, now in his 6th decade of working. A long record of acclaim, scholarship, and steady acquisition by public institutions gives Wendell Castle's work indelible historic importance. His groundbreaking unification of sculpture and furniture has inspired and influenced generations of artists and designers and contributed to the acceptance of design as an art form in its own right. At every stage, Castle has endeavored to incorporate innovations in

materials and design, while deepening and, at times, reinventing his own sculpture vocabulary

with his signature technique of stack lamination.

Wendell Castle, 82, will be the focus of three major events this year: the publication of his highly anticipated catalogue raisonné, a meticulous and comprehensive documentation of an epic career covering the years 1958-2012; a major exhibition at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York; and his second solo exhibition of bold new works at Friedman Benda in Chelsea.

On April 1, **Friedman Benda** will present *Gathering Momentum*, a powerful exhibition unveiling three new series in two media, wood and bronze. An important turn in the designer's career and a new conceptual series, *Misfits*, answers Castle's ever-constant question, "What if...?" With this series, Castle sketches two disparate chairs and models them by hand. Once the models are scanned, Castle, in effect, slices and combines them using a computer to create dynamic hybrid sculptures and, at the same time, comfortable seating. *Crossroads* (2014), the first of this new work, are mirror-image chairs supported by ellipsoidal and volumetric forms. Castle's *Tree Forms* series are composed of fluidly merged organic wood elements. These thickened reed-like forms are pure sculpture when viewed from behind. It is only when the viewer circles the sculpture that the cantilevered front seating is revealed.

Additionally, the gallery will expose to the public an ongoing series of limited edition outdoor seating in textured cast bronze. This marks a new exploration and the beginning of approximately 10 bronze works to be unveiled over the coming year.

Mr. Castle will be present at the gallery opening on April 1 to sign ***Wendell Castle: A Catalogue Raisonné, 1958-2012*** (March 31, 2015), published by The Artist Book Foundation; written by Emily Evans Eerdmans, with text by Glenn Adamson, Director of the Museum of

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Arts and Design, Jane Adlin, former Associate Curator of Decorative Arts and Architectures at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Pulitzer Prize winner and humorist Dave Barry; 564 pp, with 1,150 color plates and 400 black + white images; \$150.00.

On October 20, **The Museum of Arts and Design, New York [MAD]** will present *Wendell Castle Remastered*, a major exhibition installed on two floors of the museum juxtaposing early and contemporary works -- arguably his two most ambitious periods. The museum has asked Castle to respond to his groundbreaking achievements of the 1960s by creating a new body of sculptural furniture. In addition, two bronzes will be installed outdoors at Columbus Circle.



BIOGRAPHY

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 where he still works today.

Wendell Castle's work can be found in the permanent collections of more than 40 museums and cultural institutions worldwide, including: Art Institute of Chicago, (IL); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, (CA); the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, NY); Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY); Minneapolis Institute of Arts, (MN); Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal (Quebec, Canada); Museum of Arts and Design (New York, NY); Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, (MA); Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (TX); Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, (KS); Philadelphia Museum of Art (PA); Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; (Washington, DC); the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Castle has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including four National Endowment for the Arts grants, three honorary degrees, a Visionaries of the American Craft Movement Award from the American Craft Museum (1994), the American Craft Council Gold Medal (1997), Master of the Medium Award from The James Renwick Alliance of National Museum of American Art, (1999), and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn Museum of Art (2007).

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