

WEXLER GALLERY

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The Abstract Forms of Pablo Picasso & Wendell Castle



*“There is no abstract art. You must always start with something.
Afterward you can remove all traces of reality.”*

- Pablo Picasso

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December 3, 2011 – February 25, 2012

PHILADELPHIA- Wexler Gallery is proud to present an exhibition of important works on paper by **Pablo Picasso** along side new work by innovative designer/maker **Wendell Castle**. Show runs December 3, 2011 – February 25, 2012. An opening reception will take place on First Friday, December 3, from 5-8pm.

Spanish born painter, sculptor, printmaker, and ceramicist, **Pablo Picasso** is widely recognized as one of the most brilliant and influential artists of the 20th century. The exhibition will feature a selection of important prints by Picasso, focusing on the master artist's portraits of woman: his muses, models, wives, and mistresses. Throughout his life's work, Picasso's female subjects inspired a range of stylistic inventions and experimental techniques in portraiture. In these intimate works, the artist's own complicated desires, fears, hopes and anxieties are exposed.

Wexler Gallery 201 North 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (215) 923-7030 www.wexlergallery.com

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Along with Georges Braque, Picasso is credited with pioneering “Cubism,” a radical and influential art movement that revolutionized European painting, sculpture, and architecture in the early 1900’s. Instead of depicting objects from one viewpoint, Cubist artworks break-up, analyze, and then re-configure their subject from multiple vantage points. The end result is an angular abstraction of the object in an ambiguous space, often representing the emotional state of the subject or its illustrator.

Although Picasso never set foot on US soil, many of America's most influential and innovative artists regard him as the central figure in modern art. American furniture artist Wendell Castle is no exception. Castle's abstract sculptural approach to the functional broke the boundaries of the studio furniture world in the late 1960's. His influence remains strong today.

For almost 50 years Wendell Castle’s work has inspired viewers to look at furniture with a new vocabulary stemming from the idea that “art is a form of redemption, a transfiguration of the commonplace.” Superbly crafted and often filled with a sense of whimsy, Castle’s recent pieces deconstruct and reinterpret ideas about function, form, line, color and mass, allowing the work to stand in the worlds of furniture, sculpture, and design simultaneously.

Castle’s bold and experimental works can be found in the permanent collections of many prestigious institutions such as The Museum Modern of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Smithsonian’s American Art Museum & the Renwick Gallery in Washington DC, and The Art Institute of Chicago. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including three honorary doctoral degrees, the 1994 “Visionaries of the American Craft Movement” award sponsored by the American Craft Museum, a 1997 Gold Metal from the American Craft Council, and the Modernism Design Award for Lifetime Achievement from The Brooklyn Museum of Art in 2007.

Fascinated by the notion of challenging traditional labels that categorize art, Wexler Gallery exhibits work that can coexist in the worlds of design, fine art, decorative art and craft. By questioning and challenging the boundaries of these fields, we aim to present functional and non-functional work that consistently celebrates innovation. Unified by a commitment to excellent craftsmanship and true dedication to their art, we are proud to showcase some of the world’s most esteemed artists working in their areas of pursuit.

The Wexler Gallery is located at 201 North Third Street in the historical district of Old City Philadelphia. We invite you to visit our gallery or explore our website at www.wexlergallery.com. For high resolution images or additional information, please contact Sienna@wexlergallery.com or call (215) 923-7030.

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Pablo Picasso

Tête de Jeune Fille, 1947 (10 March)

Lithograph printed on Arches wove paper with Arches watermark

Dated "3.10.47" in reverse, in stone

One of six artist's proofs of state II of IV

Printed by Mourlot, 1947

18 7/8 x 15 1/2 inches (image)

25 5/8 x 19 1/4 inches (paper)

(Bloch 423) (Mourlot 68)

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Pablo Picasso

Tête de Femme (Bloch 321), 1939

Burin printed on Montval laid paper with Vollard watermark

From the edition of 57

Printed by Lacourière, 1942

15 3/8 x 10 inches (image)

17 5/8 x 13 3/8 inches (paper)

(Bloch 321) (Baer 669.B)

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Pablo Picasso

La femme à la fenêtre, 1952-3

Aquatint and etching, on Arches paper, with full margins

32 3/4 x 18 5/8 in. (image)

S. 35 3/8 x 25 in. (paper)

Signed and numbered 32/50 in pencil (there are also 15 artist's proofs)

Printed by Lacourière, Paris,

Published by Galerie Louise Leiris, Paris

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Wendell Castle
Sun King, 2009
Yellowheart with oil finish
33 1/4 X 50 1/2 X 30 1/4 inches

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Wendell Castle

Morning Sun, Edition of 8, 2009

Gilded fiberglass- gold

32 X 33 1/2 X 36 inches

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Wendell Castle
Skipper, Edition of 8, 2008
Stained cherry with oil finish
21 X 33 X 19 inches