



# WENDELL CASTLE

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Born in Kansas in 1932, Wendell Castle received two degrees from the University of Kansas, one in industrial design in 1958 and the other in sculpture in 1961. He moved to Rochester, New York to teach at the School for American Crafts and established a permanent studio in the area that is still in operation today. He has continually reinvented himself for nearly six decades.

Often credited as the founding father of the American crafts movement, Castle has redefined sculpture and design by seamlessly merging the two into one discipline. He creates unique pieces that blur the distinction between design and sculpture. Castle's organic and whimsical approach to sculpture incorporates his own invented technique of carving into stacked laminated wood known as lamination. His furniture designs for residential clients, public spaces, and a number of churches represent a unique exploration of the qualities and possibilities of wood and fiberglass.

His work can be found in the permanent collections of more than forty museums and cultural institutions, including the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the White House in Washington, D.C. Moreover, he has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including four National Endowment for the Arts grants and the Modernism Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn Museum in 2007.

Video Credit: Alison Castle and Friedman Benda

## EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS (SELECTION)

2019

/ 'Dark Fantasy', Carpenters Workshop Gallery x UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles, USA.  
/ 'Mutant Nature', Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ 'Dysfunctional', Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Galleria Giorgio Franchetti Alla Ca' D'Oro, Venice, Italy.  
/ 'Anthology', Carpenters Workshop Gallery x Vincenzo De Cotiis, Milan, Italy.  
/ Art021 Shanghai, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Shanghai, China.  
/ Unique Design Shanghai, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Shanghai, China.  
/ PAD London, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.  
/ Design Miami/ Basel, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Switzerland.  
/ La Biennale Paris, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.

2018

/ 'Christmas Show', Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.  
/ PAD London, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.  
/ Design Miami/ Basel, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Switzerland.  
/ ArtMonte-Carlo, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Monaco, France.  
/ TEFAF, New-York Spring, Park Avenue Armory, New-York, USA.

2017

/ Zona Maco, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Mexico City, Mexique.  
/ 'Planting Seeds', Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ Design Miami / Basel, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Switzerland.  
/ 'West Coast Pop-Up', 836M Gallery, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, New-York, USA.

2016

/ Zona Maco, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Mexico City, Mexique.  
/ Design Days Dubaï, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Dubaï, UAE.  
/ PAD Paris, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ ArtMonte-Carlo, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Monaco, France.  
/ 'Tribal', Galerie Bernard Dulon, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ Design Miami / Basel, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Switzerland.  
/ PAD London, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.  
/ '10 Years of Collectible Design', Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.

2015

/ 'Remastered', MAD Museum, New York, USA.  
/ 'New Works', Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ PAD London, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.  
/ Masterpiece, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.  
/ Design Miami / Basel, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Basel, Switzerland.  
/ PAD Paris, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ Design Days Dubai, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Dubai, UAE.  
/ Art Geneve, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Geneve, Switzerland.  
/ BRAFA, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.

2014

/ PAD Paris, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ Design Days Dubai, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Dubai, UAE.  
/ BRAFA, Brussels, Belgium.

2013

/ Design Miami / Basel, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Switzerland.  
/ 'Leap of Faith', Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ Design Days Dubai, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Dubai, UAE.  
/ Abu Dhabi Art, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi.  
/ The Salon: Art + Design, New York, USA.  
/ PAD London, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.  
/ Masterpiece, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.  
/ Design Miami, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Miami, USA.  
/ PAD Paris, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.  
/ 'Wandering Forms: Works from 1959-79', SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, USA.  
/ 'A New Environment', Friedman Benda, New York, USA.

2012

- / 'Volumes and Voids', Barry Friedman, New York, USA.
- / 'Wandering Forms: Works from 1959-79', The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, USA.
- / 'Forms within Forms', Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, USA.

2011

- / 'Wendell Castle in the 21st Century', Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, USA
- / 'Best Leg Forward', Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.
- / Inaugural show, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London, UK.

2010

- / 'Wendell Castle. Rockin', Barry Friedman, Ltd. New York, USA.
- / Sotherby's at Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham, UK.

2008

- / 'Wendell Castle. New Work', Barry Friedman, Ltd. New York, USA.
- / 'Wendell Castle: About Time' Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, USA.
- / 'Wendell Castle', Carpenter's Workshop Gallery, London, UK.

2006

- / 'Wendell Castle in Rochester', Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, USA.

2005

- / 'Wendell Castle: What Pluck!', Castellani Art Museum, Niagara, USA.

2004

- / 'Wendell Castle: Auto Plastic', R20th Century, New York, USA.

2003

- / 'Wendell Castle: Seeing in the Dark', Wexler Gallery, Philadelphia, USA.

2001

- / 'Wendell Castle', Bausch & Lomb, Rochester, USA.

2000

- / 'Furniture by Wendell Castle', Kendall College of Art & Design, Grand Rapids, USA.

1996

- / 'One Man Exhibit', Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, USA.

1995

- / 'Works by Wendell Castle', Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, USA.
- / 'Art Furniture by Wendell Castle', Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, USA.
- / 'One-Man Exhibit', Chang Gallery, Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA.
- / 'Wendell Castle: Cabinets 1985-1995. A Retrospective Exhibition', Peter Joseph Gallery, New York, USA.

1994

- / 'Ambiguous Objecthood: New Furniture and Drawings by Wendell Castle', Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, USA.
- / 'Wendell Castle: Coming to Grips', Morgan Gallery, Kansas City, USA.

1993

- / 'Wendell Castle: Environmental Works', Peter Joseph Gallery, New York, USA.
- / 'Wendell Castle: Select Early Works (1971-75)', Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, USA.

1991

- / 'Angel Chairs: New Work by Wendell Castle', Peter Joseph Gallery, New York, USA.

1989

- / 'Wendell Castle: New Work', Snyderman Gallery, Philadelphia, USA.

1986

- / 'Time and Defiance of Gravity: Recent Works by Wendell Castle', Mead Art Museum, Amherst College, Amherst, USA.

/ 'Wendell Castle. Works in Plastic', 1968-1970, 20th Century Gallery, Toronto, Canada.

1980

/ 'Furniture As Art II', Fendrick Gallery, Washington, USA.

1969

/ 'The Furniture of Wendell Castle', University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA.

1962

/ Inaugural Show, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Dartmouth, USA.

## **AWARDS AND COMMISSIONS (SELECTION)**

2007

/ Lifetime Achievement Award, Brooklyn Museum of Art, USA.

2003

/ Outstanding Achievement Award, The National Association of Schools of Art & Design, Los Angeles, USA.

2002

/ Distinguished Achievement Award, University of Kansas School of Fine Arts, Manhattan, USA.

1999

/ Master of the Medium, The James Renwick Alliance of The National Museum of American Art, Washington, USA.

1994

/ Visionaries of the American Craft Movement, American Craft Museum, USA.

1988

/ Visual Artists Fellowship Grant, National Endowment for the Arts, USA.

1979

/ Honorary Degree, Doctor of Fine Arts, Sculptor/Designer, Maryland Institute of Art, USA.

1976

/ National Endowment for the Arts Grant(s), Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, USA.

1973

/ National Endowment for the Arts Grant(s), Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, USA.

## **LITERATURE (SELECTION)**

2010

/ Barry Friedman, 'Wendell Castle, Rockin', Barry Friedman Ltd. And Friedman Benda LLC.

2009

/ Miller, Judith, 'Chairs', London: Conran Octopus Ltd.

2005

/ Albrecht, Donald, 'Auto Plastic: Wendell Castle', New York: R 20th Century.

2001

/ Busch, Akiko and Paul J. Smith, 'Objects for Use: Handmade by Design', New York: Harry H. Abrams Inc.

1999

/ Fiell, Charlotte and Peter, 'Design and the 20th Century', Germany: Taschen.

## MUSEUM REFERENCES

Addison Gallery Of American Art / Andover / USA  
Art Institute Of Chicago / Chicago / USA  
Art Museum Project / Dearborn / USA  
Burchfield-Penney Art Center / Buffalo / USA  
Charles A. Wustum Museum Of Fine Arts / Racine / USA  
Delaware Art Museum / Wilmington / USA  
Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum / Ridgefield / USA  
Belger Art Center / Kansas City / USA  
Brooklyn Museum / New York City / USA  
Carnegie Museum Of Art (Cmao) / Pittsburgh / USA  
Cincinnati Art Museum / Cincinnati / USA  
Delaware Art Museum (Delart) / Wilmington / USA  
Design Museum Gent / Gent / Belgium  
Detroit Institute Of Arts (Dia) / Detroit / USA  
Everson Museum Of Art / New York City / USA  
Fuller Craft Museum / Brockton / USA  
High Museum Of Art / Atlanta / USA  
Hunter Museum Of Art / Chattanooga / USA  
Ithaca College Art Museum / Nyc / USA  
Johnson Museum Of Art / Nyc / USA  
Kirkland Museum Of Fine & Decorative Art / Denver / USA  
Lannan Foundation Collection / Los Angeles / USA  
Manchester Art Gallery / Manchester / UK  
Marianna Kistler Beach Museum Of Art / Manhattan / USA  
Memorial Art Gallery / Rochester / USA  
Metropolitan Museum Of Art (Met) / New York City / USA  
Milwaukee Art Museum / Milwaukee / USA  
Minneapolis Institute Of Arts / Minneapolis / USA  
Mint Museum Of Craft + Design / Charlotte / USA  
Mobile Museum Of Fine Arts / Mobile / USA  
Museum Of Art / St. Louis / USA  
Museum Of Art And Design (Museum) / New York City / USA  
Museum Of Decorative Arts (Mbam) / Montreal / Canada  
Museum Of Fine Arts (Mfa) / Boston / USA  
Museum Of Fine Arts (Mfah) / Houston / USA  
Museum Of Modern Art (Moma) / New York City / USA  
Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum / Oslo / Norway  
Palm Springs Art Museum (Psmuseum) / Palm Spring / USA  
Philadelphia Museum Of Art (Philamuseum) / Philadelphia / USA  
Racine Art Museum / Racine / USA  
Renwick Gallery, The National Museum Of American Art / Washington DC / USA  
Rochester Institute Of Technology / Rochester / USA  
Virginia Museum Of Fine Arts / Richmond / USA  
Smithsonian American Art Museum / Washington DC / USA  
Spencer Museum Of Art / Lawrence / USA  
Toledo Museum Of Art / Toledo / USA  
University Of New Hampshire Art Museum / Durham / USA  
University Of Utah Art Gallery / Salt Lake City / USA  
Virginia Museum Of Fine Arts / Richmond / USA  
Wichita Art Museum / Wichita / USA  
The White House / Washington DC / US

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