

# Hudnall, Catherine Leith

## Research and Creative Activity: Section 05

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### Significance and Impact of Research Presentations and Exhibitions

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#### Artist Presentations

While exhibitions immediately come to mind when considering the presentation of art objects, other methods such as visiting artist lectures and gallery talks are a common and important part of giving viewers insight into the background and context of a body of research. Usually about an hour long, these lectures involve dozens of images of finished artworks, in-process work and artistic inspirations. They give a wonderful detailed narrative about the artist and artwork and allow a more direct connection with the audience. During my time in rank, I have been invited to lecture at Old Dominion University, Northern Michigan University, California College of Art, Lehigh University, San Diego State University, Maine College of Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Southern Indiana, and the South Bend Museum of Art, to name some. Often hosted by school furniture design and woodworking programs, these presentations are advertised and open to the public, and usually well attended by local artists and woodworkers as well as students, and have helped to introduce my work to the next generation of makers. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiSQAmFLA44>)

Programs typically bring in only one or two visiting artists a year, with area faculty deciding whom to invite, based on what might be good for their students. While the presentations are a great way to have more direct contact with an audience, they are also a good measure of an artist's relevance in the field, as respected peers are deciding whose work is worth sharing in a more direct way with their students. Many of the faculty are members of the Furniture Society Organization, and were introduced to me and my work through numerous lectures and panel discussions I've been a part of at FS organized events.

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#### Selected Group Exhibitions Juried/Invitational

Group exhibitions are a way to exhibit work with other talented artists in venues such as museums and galleries that share artworks with a broad public audience. They are also significant in that they offer an opportunity to put my research in front of important curators in the field. Having work not only seen, but juried into an exhibition by a respected curator is a validation of the research, and an opportunity to continue growing a reputation. Below is a brief description of two group exhibitions – a complete list can be found in the Curriculum Vitae portion of this application.

#### **2016 Why Wood**, Sculptural Objects, Fine Art (SOFA) Fair, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL

Juried by Jennifer Navva Milliken, Curator of Craft at Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, WA. Milliken chose work by 27 artists for this exhibition that “push the boundaries of technique and material and exemplify creativity, outstanding workmanship, and aesthetically appealing design elements.” The SOFA Fair showcases artworks that “cross the boundaries of fine art, decorative art and design” and draws an average of 35,000 visitors every year. My piece, Shark Fin Cabinet, was chosen and I was asked to be part of a panel discussion about the work moderated by Milliken. **Scope: International**

*Note: I was juried into a SOFA Chicago exhibition in 2014, and am invited to participate in another in the fall of 2018* [https://apps.iu.edu/edo-prd/EdoDownloadFile.do?itemID=136679&nid=Research-Creative-Activity\\_12\\_197](https://apps.iu.edu/edo-prd/EdoDownloadFile.do?itemID=136679&nid=Research-Creative-Activity_12_197)

**2016 Touch: Interactive Craft**, Arrowmont School of Art and Crafts Gallery, Gatlinburg, TN  
Juried by Emily Zilber, the Ronald L. and Anita C. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston who chose 52 works from 158 submissions each containing between 1 and 3 proposed pieces. Zilber chose my piece, Symbiosis #4, and awarded it the Third Place prize in the exhibition. **Scope: National**

*Note: Zilber also juried my work into the exhibition at SOFA in 2014 called, Beyond Boundaries.*  
[https://apps.iu.edu/edo-prd/EdoDownloadFile.do?itemID=136686&nid=Research-Creative-Activity\\_12\\_197](https://apps.iu.edu/edo-prd/EdoDownloadFile.do?itemID=136686&nid=Research-Creative-Activity_12_197)



Examples of posters from visiting artist presentations:  
Top: California College of Art, 2017  
Bottom: Northern Michigan University, 2017





Below is the acceptance letter into the *Why Wood* exhibition at SOFA, along with an image of my piece in the exhibition and a picture of me and the other panelists for the *Why Wood* Panel Discussion moderated by Bellevue Arts Museum Curator of Craft, Jennifer Navva Milliken.

4/29/2018

Mail - katiehudnall@hotmail.com

"WHY WOOD?" exhibition

CWA Info

Thu 6/23/2016 6:34 PM

To:Katie Hudnall <katiehudnall@hotmail.com>;

Cc:Emilie Hogue <cwa.emilie@gmail.com>;

Dear Katie,

Congratulations! On behalf of the Collectors of Wood Art, I am pleased to inform you that your piece, "Shark Fin Cabinet", has been selected for inclusion in "WHY WOOD? Contemporary Practice in a Timeless Material", the CWA sponsored exhibition to be held at SOFA Chicago. Selections were made by Jennifer Navva-Milliken, Curator of Craft at Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA. Jennifer had a significant number of high quality applications to review, making her job both exciting and challenging.

27 artists' works will appear in the show. The works chosen push the boundaries of technique and material and exemplify creative workmanship, and aesthetically appealing design elements.

We hope that you will be able to attend the show in person. [Show dates are Thursday, November 3 - Sunday, November 6.](#) If you cannot attend, please consider volunteering in the booth. It is a wonderful way to share your enthusiasm and expertise with visitors, and a unique opportunity to connect personally with potential collectors.

More information, including a letter of agreement, shipping and insurance information, and a deadline checklist, will be sent to you in the next few days. If you have any questions, please acknowledge receipt of this email by replying to: [collectorsofwoodart@gmail.com](mailto:collectorsofwoodart@gmail.com)

Again, congratulations on being selected for inclusion in "WHY WOOD?!" CWA looks forward to a wonderful show at SOFA Chicago.

Best regards,

Judy

Judith Chernoff, M.D.  
Collectors of Wood Art  
President  
[www.collectorsofwoodart.org](http://www.collectorsofwoodart.org)

