



## SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF CRAFT+DESIGN

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### **MICHAEL PETERSON: EVOLUTION / REVOLUTION** AT [SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF CRAFT+DESIGN](#) October 16, 2009 – January 3, 2010

*More than 30 distinctive wood sculptures showcase  
two decades of artistic progression*

**SAN FRANCISCO (August 20, 2009)** – The [San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design](#) (SFMC+D) presents [Michael Peterson: Evolution | Revolution](#), a collection of more than 30 distinctive sculptural works that showcases two decades of artistic progression, October 16, 2009 through January 3, 2010. The exhibition traces the evolution of Peterson's work, from his early turned wood bowls to his current abstract works which feature complex, organic forms and textured surfaces created without use of the lathe. Twenty recent sculptures displayed alongside 15 vessel forms demonstrate Peterson's development from wood turner to sculptor.

Using the burl portion of madrone, maple, elm, locust and other found timber, Peterson employs techniques such as bleaching, carving, sandblasting and pigmenting to transform the material into sculptural forms that evoke natural landscapes. Starting with multiple wet chunks of wood, Peterson carves and hollows the forms with chainsaws. As they dry, the pieces shrink and warp in unpredictable ways that intensify their grain patterns and surface textures. Peterson smooths the edges and occasionally bleaches the pieces before layering them with multiple coats of pigment. He often wipes away pigment to create the illusion of depth. Peterson's techniques aim to emulate natural processes, such as the effects of wind, water, sand and sun on surfaces and forms.

Many of Peterson's works consist of groupings of forms, which can resemble birds, stones or other natural elements. In his most recent sculptures, he stacks multiple hollowed-out pieces in asymmetrical, vertical



Michael Peterson's *Coastal Stack IV*, (2008), 35" x 20" x 19," will be on display at SFMC+D, October 16, 2009 through January 3, 2010

arrangements that are reminiscent of wave-tossed driftwood on a beach. Peterson's work is heavily inspired by the physical environment of Lopez Island in Washington, where he has resided for more than 30 years.

"Evolution | Revolution highlights Peterson's reverence for nature and organic processes, which has proven to be a key thread through his work," said JoAnn Edwards, executive director of the San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design. "Peterson demonstrates a captivating progression in technique and aesthetic while creating pieces that are quietly and consistently luminous."



Michael Peterson's Teardrop (1987), 7" x 10" dia., showcases the artist's early lathe-turned vessels

Peterson's work has appeared in solo and group exhibitions over the past 20 years, and can be found in public collections throughout North America, including: Museum of Arts and Design (New York, NY); the Mint Museum of Craft + Design (Charlotte, NC) and the Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington DC), among others.

### **Special Events for Michael Peterson: Evolution | Revolution:**

#### **Preview Reception**

Thursday, October 15, 2009

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design, 550 Sutter Street

Free admission (\$3 suggested donation for adults)

#### **MakeArt Educational Workshop for Families: Inspired by Wood**

Saturday, November 7, 2009

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design, 550 Sutter Street

Free admission

Advance registration required. Please call 415.773.0303

Children can explore their creativity and create their own wood-inspired artwork in this fun MakeArt program. The workshop starts with a family tour of the exhibition, Michael Peterson: Evolution | Revolution, followed by a hands-on art workshop in which children will create their own piece to take home. This workshop is for children ages 6 to 12, and parents/caregivers are welcome to join the tour. This MakeArt workshop is part of a full day of family-friendly activities in celebration of SFMC+D's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Since launching its MakeArt educational program in 2006, SFMC+D has provided free, hands-on art education workshops to hundreds of children and their families each year.

## **Exhibition Walk-Through Tour with artist Michael Peterson**

Friday, October 16, 2009

11 a.m.

San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design, 550 Sutter Street

Free admission (\$3 suggested donation for adults)

The artist will lead a tour of the exhibition Michael Peterson: Evolution | Revolution and provide personal insight on the progression of his sculptural work.

## **San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design Speaker Series Event**

### **Michael Peterson: From Wood Turner to Sculptor**

Saturday, October 17, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Larkspur Hotel Union Square, 524 Sutter Street

Free to members of SFMC+D, \$15 for non-members

Collector and wood artist Ron Wornick shares insights into Michael Peterson's growth as an artist. Wornick will discuss Michael Peterson's life's work and evolution from wood turner to a sculptor. Discussion followed by a visit to the exhibition at the Museum.

**Admission to the exhibition is free.** For more information about the exhibition and related educational programs, please visit [sfmcd.org](http://sfmcd.org) or call 415-773-0303.

## **About the San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design**

The San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design (SFMC+D) exhibits contemporary craft and design to encourage appreciation of both disciplines – and to highlight the strong connections between the two. Celebrating its fifth anniversary in October 2009, SFMC+D introduces visitors to work by artists and designers from the Bay Area and around the globe through exhibitions and related educational programs. The Museum is located at 550 Sutter Street in San Francisco and is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sundays 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. To become a member, sponsor or for more information, please call 415-773-0303, email [info@sfmcd.org](mailto:info@sfmcd.org) or visit [www.sfmcd.org](http://www.sfmcd.org).

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**MICHAEL PETERSON: EVOLUTION / REVOLUTION**  
**AT [SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF CRAFT+DESIGN](http://www.sfmcd.org)**  
**October 16, 2009 – January 3, 2010**

*More than 30 distinctive wood sculptures showcase  
two decades of artistic progression*

**What:** The [San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design](#) (SFMC+D) presents [Michael Peterson: Evolution | Revolution](#), a collection of more than 30 distinctive sculptural works that showcases two decades of artistic progression. The exhibition traces the evolution of Peterson's work, from his early turned wood bowls to his current abstract works which feature complex, organic forms and textured surfaces created without use of the lathe. Twenty recent sculptures displayed alongside 15 vessel forms demonstrate Peterson's development from wood turner to sculptor.

Special events associated with the exhibition include a preview reception, a MakeArt educational workshop for families, a speaker series event featuring collector and wood artist Ron Wornik and a walk-through tour of the exhibition with the artist Michael Peterson.

**Where:** San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design  
550 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, CA (94102)

*San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design Speaker Series Event  
Michael Peterson: From Wood Turner to Sculptor  
Larkspur Hotel Union Square  
524 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, Ca*

**When:** *Michael Peterson: Evolution | Revolution Exhibition*  
October 16, 2009 through January 3, 2010  
\*\* Preview reception on October 15, 2009, 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

*San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design Speaker Series Event  
Michael Peterson: From Wood Turner to Sculptor  
Saturday, October 17, 2009, 4 p.m.*

*Exhibition Walk-Through Tour with Artist Michael Peterson  
Friday, October 16, 2009, 11 a.m.*

*MakeArt Educational Workshop for Families: Inspired by Wood  
Saturday, November 7, 2009, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.*

**Admission:** Free (Suggested donation: \$3 for adults)  
Speaker Series Event is free for members of SFMC+D, \$15 for non-members

**For Public**

**Information:** Call the San Francisco Museum of Craft + Design at (415) 773-0303, visit [www.sfmcd.org](http://www.sfmcd.org) or email [info@sfmcd.org](mailto:info@sfmcd.org).

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