



The Center for Art in Wood
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Images available upon request

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia, PA (August 2013) Philadelphia's The Center for Art in Wood announces the upcoming exhibition *Shadow of the Turning: The Art of Binh Pho*, scheduled for October 25, 2013 – January 18, 2014. The opening reception will be held on Friday, October 25^h from 5 – 8 PM, with a gallery talk by the artist at 6:30 PM. On Saturday, October 26th from 11 AM – 1 PM join the artist for an in depth conversation and book signing. *Shadow of the Turning* was organized by Binh Pho and Kevin Wallace, Director of the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts.

Shadow of the Turning is a traveling exhibition featuring an exciting new body of work by Binh Pho blending the mythic worlds of fairy tale, fantasy, adventure and science fiction. Pho's works in wood and glass feature a highly personal iconography, with imagery that relates to Asian culture and the natural world. The story of his journey from an idyllic childhood in Vietnam to his escape to the United States in 1979 is profoundly illustrated in Pho's sculptures.

In 2006, the book *River of Destiny: The Life and Work of Binh Pho* was published in conjunction with a prior exhibition of the artist's work at the Long Beach Museum of Art in California. In the book, curator and author Wallace, shared Pho's life story, Vietnamese history and philosophy. By the time the book was published, the two had already begun discussing a second collaboration. *River of Destiny* covered Pho's childhood in Vietnam, eyewitness accounts of the Fall of Saigon, life in a Communist prison camp, his daring escape and new life in the United States of America. They decided to move beyond biographical exploration to take a bold, visionary approach to this new project which will be on exhibition at the Center- *Shadow of the Turning*.

Shadow of the Turning, like its predecessor, focuses on art, philosophy and storytelling, yet is an entirely fictional story; blending the mythic worlds of fairy tale, fantasy, romance and adventure. It creates a bridge between literature, art world approaches to concept and narrative and craft traditions. The story is "illustrated" using an exciting new body of work by Binh Pho, which combines woodturning, sculpture, painting and art glass. As the storyline explores collaboration, a diverse group of international artists were brought together to collaborate on works of art that celebrate traditional craft materials and processes to redefine the boundaries of contemporary art, including Hans Weisflog, Germany and others.



“The Shadow of The Turning joins the long tradition of writer, artist, designer collaborations with distinctive imaginative flair, at once contemporary in its issues and timeless in its examination of the nature of making art and living life,” notes Paul W. Richelson, Chief Curator of the Mobile Museum of Art.

Binh Pho (Vietnamese-American, b. 1955) earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Science from Devry University, Kansas City, MO in 1979 after escaping from Vietnam. Ten years later, Pho picked up woodturning as a hobby and began his career as a master artist in the craft. His work is represented in the collection of Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, DC; Museum of Art + Design, NY; Fuller Craft Art Museum, MA; Bellevue Arts Museum, WA; and The Center for Art in Wood, PA, to name a few.

The Artist wishes to thank the following donors/supporters of the exhibition and publication: Marty and Barbara Bosch; Jerome and Deena Kaplan; Clark and Anne Knickerbocker; Michael and Nicky Komori; and Paul and Sheri Robbins.

The exhibition is accompanied by the book, Shadow of The Turning, created in collaboration with Kevin Wallace, Director of the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts. The exhibition catalogue is available for sale in the Center’s Museum Store and online.

The Center for Art in Wood’s mission is to continue to be the preeminent arts and education organization advancing the growth, awareness, appreciation and promotion of artists and the creation and design of art in wood and wood in combination with other materials.

The Center participates in First Friday Weekends in conjunction with the Old City Arts Association.

Programming at The Center is supported in part by generous donations by Members and Friends of The Center. **Cambium Circle:** Walter Balliet, Andrew Bender, Lee Bender & Carol Schilling, Fleur Bresler, Carol Bresler & Carolyn Billinghamurst, Edward Bresler & family, Sidney & Phyllis Bresler & family, John Dziedzina, Susan Ellerin, Connie & David Girard-diCarlo, Harvey Fein, Richard & Rita Goldberg, Bruce & Eleanor Heister, Robyn & John Horn, David & Jane Hummel, Jeff & Suzanne Kahn, Bruce Kaiser, Arthur Kaplan & Duane R. Perry, Jerome & Deena Kaplan, Alan Keiser, Leonard & Norma Klorfine, Tim & Sheryl Kochman, Leonard Kreppel, Alan LeCoff & Christine Madden, Albert & Tina LeCoff, Mark & Kathy Lindquist, Gina Principato, Judson Randall, Mark & Susan Rubin, Seymore Rubin, Ronald Sheehan, Bil Sticker. **Foundations & Corporate Sponsors:** Frances & Benjamin Benenson Foundation, Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Windgate Charitable Foundation, Citizens for the Arts in PA, PA Council on the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Barry S. Slosberg, Inc, Craft Supplies USA, Packard Woodworks, Penn State Industries, Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, and Sign-A-Rama, Philadelphia.

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Images (top to bottom)

Binh Pho, American, born Vietnam, 1955

- *Water Vessel*, 2012

- *The Knower and The Known*, 2012

- *Sinus Amoris- Hope*, 2012 & *Sinus Amoris- Spring*, 2011

- *Shadows of Immortal Fire*, 2012 (detail)