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**THE CENTER FOR ART IN WOOD AND NEXTFAB ANNOUNCE
ARTIST MICHAEL FERRIN AS THE 2023 WINTER RESIDENCY PROGRAM FELLOW**

PHOTOS: [HERE](#)

Philadelphia, PA | December 15, 2022 – [The Center for Art in Wood](#) and [NextFab](#) have selected artist **Michael Ferrin** for their third annual [Winter Residency Program](#). Launched in 2021, the program is designed for artists based in the Greater Philadelphia region who work in the medium of wood and demonstrate technical proficiency with woodworking equipment. The residency will run from January 2 to February 28, 2023, and culminates in a solo exhibition at NextFab (1800 N. American Street) on March 1, 2023.

The Winter Residency Program is a collaboration between the Center and membership-based maker space NextFab. Each year, the two organizations assemble a jury of makers and educators to award one fellowship to an artist in the region who works either solely in wood or other materials in combination with wood. The fellow receives a stipend for project materials and access to NextFab’s workshop space. Reflecting the Center and NextFab’s support of environmental stewardship, reclaimed wood must comprise at least 50 percent of the fellow’s work during the residency.

“The Winter Residency Program reflects the shared values of the Center for Art in Wood and NextFab,” said **Jennifer-Navva Milliken**, Executive Director and Chief Curator at the Center for Art in Wood. “The collaborative program spotlights the innovative ways that artists are leveraging their hard-earned skills and creative visions with an ingrained responsibility for the material of wood. Our 2023 Fellow, Michael Ferrin, brings the complex beauty of *khatam* marquetry and Islamic geometry to craftsmanship using discarded materials—an act of craftsmanship, discipline, and the aesthetic transformation of waste to treasure.”

Ferrin is an artist and furniture maker who hails from Southwest Philadelphia. His interest in fine woodworking led him to enroll in a formal education in craft at the College of the Redwoods (now the Krenov School of Fine Furniture) in Mendocino, CA. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in 2020 and had his work exhibited at the Charles Addams Gallery during his time there. In addition to owning and operating his own woodworking business, Ferrin has worked for over 10 years fabricating high-end, custom furniture, including cabinets, tables, bookshelves, and benches. Ferrin has also had experience with repairing and conserving antique furniture.

His artistic work incorporates traditional woodworking techniques and crafts to address how the public relates to objects, how objects are produced, and the impact of production methods on humans and our environment. Ferrin’s interests range from the influence of Islamic arts on European medieval design vocabulary to the visual landscape of Philadelphia’s public transit infrastructure. Recently, he has augmented his artistic practice by incorporating Persian *khatam* marquetry into his work. This unique inlaying technique involves designing the surface of wooden surfaces with intricate patterns comprised of delicate pieces of cut wood, bone, and metal that have been cut into geometric patterns.

The Winter Residency Exhibition will go on display at NextFab from March 1 to May 21, 2023. Following the exhibition's opening, the Center and NextFab will host an Artist Talk with Ferrin on March 9, where he'll share insights into his creative process.

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About the Center for Art in Wood:

The Center for Art in Wood interprets, nurtures, and champions creative engagement and expansion of art, craft, and design in wood to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of it. Founded and sited in Philadelphia, the Center for Art in Wood serves a local and international community. It has built its reputation by providing opportunities for makers and visitors to experience craft directly, through participatory programming; seminal exhibitions and documentation; and the growth, conservation, exhibition, and care of its permanent collection. The Center's practice of keeping these resources free and available to the public emphasizes its commitment to building a democratic and inclusive community. Visit centerforartinwood.org to learn more.

About NextFab

NextFab is a network of membership-based makerspaces that provide access to tools, technology, education, events, and services for makers and creatives. They offer a variety of education and startup programs, as well as professional design, production, and placemaking services for whatever your fabrication needs. Visit www.nextfab.com to learn more.