

PENLAND SCHOOL OF CRAFTS



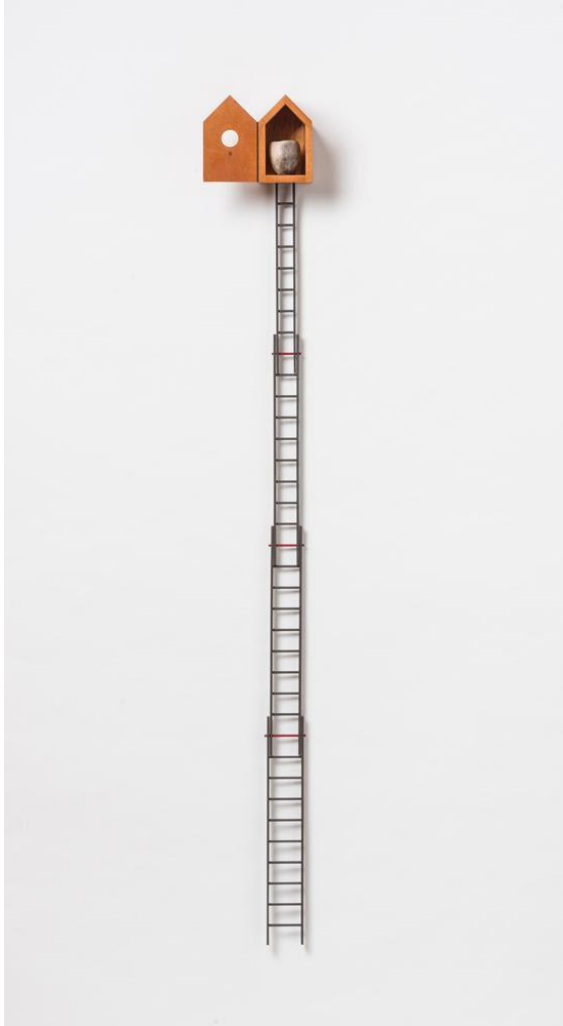
Register now for Penland's 31st Annual Benefit Auction!

[Penland School of Crafts](#) is an international center for craft education located in the North Carolina mountains. The school offers workshops in a wide range of media and sponsors artist residencies, a community education program, and a gallery of contemporary craft.

This year's Penland Benefit Auction will be August 12 and 13, 2016. The auction is a gala weekend featuring the sale of over 240 works of wood sculpture, furniture, jewelry, photography, glass, ceramics, textiles, and more. It's one of the most important craft collecting events in the Southeast and a perfect opportunity to support the community and creativity that Penland fosters. [Reserve your tickets for the auction now.](#)

Dail Dixon's Latest Birdhouse

Architect Dail Dixon has helped shape the Penland campus, and his structures have touched thousands in the Penland community. But Dail also works on a smaller scale to build structures not for humans, but for birds. Below, Dan Gottlieb writes about Dail and his imaginative birdhouses, one of which will be featured in this year's auction.



Dail Dixon, *Paulus Path*, Penland Places Series, Spanish cedar, poplar, recycled ebony, 6 feet tall

For sculptor and acclaimed architect Dail Dixon, making birdhouses is a family tradition of sorts. In 1927 his father won first place for his birdhouse at the NC State fair. The trophy was presented by Edith Vanderbilt, and (legend has it) the house went to the Biltmore Estate. Dail's modernist sensibilities take the tradition to places that might cause Ms. Vanderbilt to be a bit befuddled - *but what about the birds, Mr. Dixon?*

Of course, these creations are actually gem-box sculptures, handsomely made with a wide variety of materials evoking people, situations, and places. Dail has made more than a dozen birdhouses as tributes to Penland, including The Pines Portico and the drawing and painting studio. Each much-anticipated sculpture is a perfectly proportioned creation, imbued with large measures of wit that far exceed the object's modest dimensions.

This year, Dail continues his Penland Places series with the Paulus Path. Delivered in a Japanese-inspired wood box, Paulus Path takes us on a quiet, whimsical, almost spiritual climb evoking the path itself, to an inner sanctum containing Paulus' student Natalie Boorman's exquisitely diminutive pinch pot - just waiting to be discovered. Modernist design, North Carolina tradition, and Penland all come together in Mr. Dixon's exquisite sculpture.

- Dan Gottlieb

Artist and Director of Planning and Design, North Carolina Museum of Art

Auction Wood Preview

Penland's wood studio welcome dozens of talented artists every year as instructors, residents, and students. These artists form the backbone of the strong woodworking community that has evolved around the school and continuously inject new creativity, skill, and energy into Penland's programs.

Below are just a few works in this year's benefit auction. See these pieces and more over auction weekend as you celebrate under the tent! [Reserve your auction seats.](#)



Tom Shields, *Held-up*, found chairs, ebonized oak, 43 x 22 x 72 inches



Jacqué Allen, *Cocktails Anyone?*, mahogany, aluminum, 33 x 19 x 32-1/4 inches



Ray Duffey, *Small Wall Shelf*, reclaimed wood, paint, 3-3/4 x 6-1/4 x 22-1/2 inches



Annie Evelyn and Ian Henderson, *Floe*, ebonized white oak, cement, foam, 32 x 45-1/2 x 18 inches



Brent Skidmore, *Spaghetti with Lauren in April*, basswood, mirror, graphite, acrylic paint, 17 x 45 x 2 inches



Doug Sigler, *Library Table*, cherry, 36 x 15 x 42 inches



Geoffrey Gorman, *Chihi*, mixed media, found objects, 20 x 18 x 16 inches