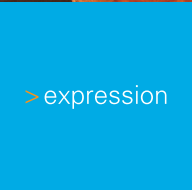




> texture



> expression



Philip Gruppuso

Woodworking began as a practical endeavor for me, a response to the need for functional items for my home. It has become much more. At the heart of the work is wood, a remarkable material that starts with something living – a tree. The process of transforming a board into something of beauty is challenging; it requires a sense of design and proportion, but it also requires skills that can only be acquired through effort and persistence. Satisfaction grows from using my hands to shape and surface the wood. When the outcome is good, the results are a satisfying combination of the visual, tactile and functional.

These pieces have several elements in common. The maple table tops all start with slabs that were destined to be discarded. Shaping them involved the removal of unstable elements and stabilization with epoxy resin, butterfly keys and veneered panels. The bases, all constructed from black walnut, borrow from the designs of the mid-century furniture master, George Nakashima. All of the pieces are finished with shellac and varnish. The table tops are durable and meant to be used. However, I also accepted the limitations of the slabs, incorporated their odd shapes and voids into the table designs.

"At the heart of the work is wood, a remarkable material that starts with something living – a tree."

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HOURS

Check website for weekly hours



Philip Gruppuso

Biography

Following completion of medical school, I moved to Providence to train in pediatrics at Rhode Island Hospital. I never left, continuing my training to become an endocrinologist and medical researcher. I became Associate Dean for Medical Education at Brown in 2005. When I stepped down from that position in 2013, I decided to semi-retire so that I could devote my time to woodworking. I have no formal training in the craft of furniture design or construction.

I founded Seekonk Woodworking in 2014. My work is in the Clever Hand Gallery in Wellesley, MA. I have shown at the Pawtucket Arts Marketplace and Exchange Street Open Studios. I do two open studio events each year, one as part of the annual Seekonk Artist Network open studios event. Since 2014, I have completed 32 commissions ranging from jewelry boxes to dining room tables to large case pieces.

Education

B.A., Arts (Music), Union College,
Schenectady, NY – June 1973

M.D., University of Rochester,
Rochester, NY – June 1977

Academic Appointments

Associate Dean for Medical Education,
Alpert Medical School – 2005-2013

Professor of Pediatrics, Brown University – Current

Professor of Molecular Biology/Cell Biology/
Biochemistry, Brown University – Current

Professor of Medical Science,
Brown University – Current