

### About the Artist

One can hear the flowing of water and the rustling of wind in the sleek silhouettes of Joseph Walsh (b. 1979 –), an artist who captures not only the natural beauty of Ireland in his epic works made from wood or stone, but the movements that flow within. Walsh's works in furniture are as if dreams have melted into place, finding form in shapes unseen and beyond imagination, his curves and lines at once seductive yet simultaneously, serene. However, it is not simply imagination that Walsh transcends, but the very conception of functionality within form. Where does function end and free form begin? Can revolutionary form and the comforts in functionality coalesce in a state of peaceful coexistence? The answer is an unequivocal yes. Walsh's curvatures are the symbiosis of unforeseen vision, the highest levels of innovative craftsmanship that is coupled with true knowledge of his material, and at the same time, finding within the sheer determination to make such visions into reality.

With works in the collections of leading museums such as the Metropolitan Museum in NYC, the Centre Pompidou, the Museum of Art and Design (NY), and the National Museum of Ireland, Walsh has defined and transcended the limits of his material, and have put to the test the notion that the categories of furniture and sculpture are separate and distinct entities. Instead, his works blur the lines between furniture and fine art, essentially proving testament to the notion that such definitions are essentially meaningless in the case of masterful works of art that stand the tests of time.

1979 Born in Cork, Ireland

1999 Founds studio in Cork, Ireland

### Selected Exhibitions

2008 Realisations, American Irish Historical Society, New York, USA

2011 Nilufar, Salone, Milan, Italy

Black & White, Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

ENIGNUM and other stories, Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

2012 Wallpaper Handmade at Palazzo Brioni, Milan, Italy

Design Days Dubai, Nilufar Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2013 Against the Grain: Wood in Contemporary Art and Craft, Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

2014 Cheongju International Craft Biennale, South Korea

Against the Grain: Wood in Contemporary Art and Craft, Museum of Art and Design, New York, USA

Solo Exhibition, The Roche Court Educational Trust, New Art Centre, UK

Collective 2, Skylight at Moynihan Station, New York, USA

Lilium, Oliver Sears Gallery, London

2015 Make Yourself Comfortable at Chatsworth, UK

2016 Masterworks, Long House Reserve, East Hampton, New York, USA

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London, UK

2017 Reveal, The American Irish Historical Society (AIHS), New York, USA

Making / Breaking, Cooper Hewitt Museum, New York, USA

Joseph Walsh's Japan Debut at the Tsubaki Grand Shrine, Mie, Japan

2018 RINN – an exhibition by Joseph Walsh, Sogetsu Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Earth Wind Fire, Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, Ireland

2019 Design Miami, Basel, Switzerland

West Bund Art and Design, Shanghai, China ('20)

Design Miami, Miami, USA ('20)

2020 Centre Pompidou × West Bund, Shanghai, China

### Public Collections

Centre de Pompidou, France / Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, USA / The Devonshire Collection, Chatsworth House, UK / Embassy of Japan, Ireland / John H. Bryan Collection, USA / National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History Collection, Ireland / Mint Museum of Craft & Design, Charlotte, USA / Museum of Arts and Design, USA / Tsubaki Grand Shrine, Japan / The Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA

### About the Work

In the words of the artist, “My works for Japan represent a certain point, a moment in time along the way. It is as much about the beginning of the journey as it is about the end. It speaks of an evolution in my work, from the past through to an expression of the now. Most importantly, it is also a dialogue with Japan and with the A Lighthouse called Kanata, and how the experience of having my work in Japan will inform and influence the future.”

Made by cutting ash wood into thinly striated layers and bending them into his imagined forms through the sheer weights of gravity, Walsh's works are luscious odes to the beauty of material and the visceral poetry that simple silhouettes can evoke. A joy to use and nurture for generations to come, the work of Joseph Walsh reminds us of a distinct Return to Innocence – in other words, the importance of material, craftsmanship and beauty within contemporary art.



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