

For Immediate Release
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The Chair Project Group Show

On Display at the Seattle Design Center January 20, 2011- August 2011
Opening Reception: Saturday, February 12, 6-9pm

Pratt Fine Arts Center has partnered with the Seattle Design Center to undertake a project pairing the creativity of artists and designers to create unique, unexpected versions of the everyday household item: the chair. Each team starts with the bones of a chair provided by Chicago furniture maker Baker, which they will alter to express their collaborative vision.

The Chair Project Group Show, which will be on display at the Seattle Design Center through August of 2011, showcases the personal work of the artists who are participating in the project including Laura Ward, Steve Jensen, Chris McMullen, Larry Calkins, Tom DeGroot, Piper O'Neill, Romson Bustillo, Brian Murphy, Jared Rue and Judith Kindler.



The artist/designer teams will come together February 17, 2011 to reveal their creations at Seattle Design Center's Northwest Design Awards Gala. After the gala, the chairs will be displayed at Nordstrom in downtown Seattle and other venues throughout the city until they are auctioned off in August 2011, with proceeds benefiting Pratt.

"The intention of the Chair Project was to build a partnership between the art and design worlds to see where their combined talents could lead us," said Brandi Clark, Director of Community Initiatives at Pratt Fine Arts Center. "We partnered ten artists with ten designers, gave them a Baker chair and stepped back. No one wanted to limit the imaginations or ideas of the teams, so they have been given no restrictions; the final chair may be a still be a functional chair, an abstract work or art, a vehicle for an idea or something else entirely. We are all very excited to see how the members of these teams influenced each other and worked together and what their final results will be."

"Pratt is thrilled to partner with the Seattle Design Center, to provide this opportunity for artists to connect with designers, and introduce their work to an audience that may not yet be familiar with their work" said Michelle Bufano, Executive Director at Pratt Fine Arts Center.

What: *The Chair Project Group Show*: Laura Ward, Steve Jensen, Chris McMullen, Larry Calkins, Tom DeGroot, Piper O'Neill, Romson Bustillo, Brian Murphy, Jared Rue and Judith Kindler

Where: Seattle Design Center, 5701 Sixth Avenue South, Seattle, WA

When: January 20, 2011 - August 2011

Artist Reception: Saturday, February 12, 6-9pm

Why: To showcase the personal work of the 10 artists participating in The Chair Project

Image: Laura Ward, *Flake*, 2008, wood & paint Photo: Eric Eley
High resolution images are available on request.

Since 1976, Pratt Fine Arts Center has offered art classes for everyone and workspace for artists in its equipment-rich facilities in Seattle's Central District. Pratt serves 3,400 students each year and more than 500 working artists use Pratt's affordable studios and equipment.

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