

MEL KENDRICK

21 Sculptures

August 12 – September 19, 2022



The Drawing Room is pleased to present **MEL KENDRICK 21 Sculptures**, an exhibition that offers a concise survey of the artist's approaches to working in wood from the early 1990s to the present. Ranging from six to twenty-one inches tall, the sculptures are staged at the center of the gallery's vaulted space on the artist's 8-foot long studio worktable. Conceived to echo Kendrick's own experience studying works he had saved to revisit and mine for future inspiration, the installation provides viewers with a rare window on the acclaimed artist's practice.



Untitled 2021

The works selected for the exhibition reflect salient strategies Kendrick has explored and refined over several decades using single blocks of mahogany, walnut, ebony and other woods. Many sculptures are animated with bold hues of Japan color, a luminous paint that is a signature element across several bodies of Kendrick's work. Because the artist builds his compositions through a puzzle-like process of cutting and reconfiguring roughhewn materials, each sculpture demands close engagement and viewing from multiple perspectives. Moving through the space to explore different vantage points, the viewer encounters silhouettes that shift from playful and anthropomorphic to timeless and monumental.

(over)

Mel Kendrick (b. Boston, 1949) lives and works in New York City, where he moved in 1971 to enroll in the master's program at Hunter College. While working toward his degree, his professors included Tony Smith and Robert Morris. At the time of his arrival, New York was the epicenter of Minimalism, and Kendrick's own artistic development evolved in response to the rigid and analytical tenets that were predominant. Instead of embracing a process bound by the constraints of a systematic methodology, he chose to maximize the potential of reassembling the modules he created when cutting up and dismantling his source materials.

Since his 1974 exhibition at Manhattan's Artists Space, Kendrick has been the subject of numerous one-person shows. Notable group exhibitions include MoMA's 1984 International Survey of Painting and Sculpture and the Whitney Museum's 1985 Biennial. Among many prestigious honors, he received the Francis J. Greenburger Award in 2008 and the Academy Award for Art in 2002 from the American Academy of Arts. Kendrick's work is represented in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Brooklyn Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Parrish Art Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Storm King Art Center, the Walker Art Center, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Yale University Art Gallery.

In November, his retrospective, *Mel Kendrick: Seeing Things in Things*, will open at the Parrish Art Museum in Watermill. The exhibition was co-organized by and the Parrish Art Museum and the Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, where it was first presented in 2021. An accompanying monograph was published by Rizzoli-Electa.

Gallery hours

Thursday through Monday
11 to 5, & by appointment

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Untitled, 2019