

Wasserman Projects to Present New Works by Detroit-Based Designer Jack Craig On View February 16 through May 5, 2018

DETROIT—February 2018—On February 16, Wasserman Projects will open an exhibition of new work by Detroit-based designer Jack Craig. Curated by Butter Projects, an independent curatorial collective also based in Detroit, and presented in collaboration with Salon 94 Design, the exhibition will position Craig’s functional and sculptural objects within a landscape of living plants, creating an indoor environment akin to a Japanese garden. On view through May 5, the exhibition highlights Craig’s creative process and material experimentations.

Craig’s practice is inspired by the creative potential of common materials, which he sources from hardware stores and construction retailers. His furniture, lighting works, and installations are characterized by the surprising relationships made between these materials, and the unexpected outcomes of both subtle and forceful manipulations that alter their physicality and functions. This ongoing examination of everyday objects is in part inspired by Craig’s early training as an engineer, and his time spent working in stealth technology for the U.S. Navy.

For the exhibition at Wasserman Projects, Craig expands on his *Bronzed Stone Series*, creating new works especially for the presentations. The *Series* was first conceived following Craig’s investigations of the ruins in the ancient Anatolian city of Perge, located in modern-day Turkey, where melted iron was poured between cut stones to create walls. In Craig’s hands this process is inverted, as molten bronze is poured over a diversity of concrete frames, forming load-bearing exoskeletons. The bronze sets almost as soon as it is poured, producing an organic build-up of globs, lines, and spatters that resemble a 3D line drawing.

The resulting works blur the lines between fine art and functional design, appearing at first as artifacts of a prior era but revealing themselves, upon further inspection, as lamps, tables, and other types of furniture. This tension is further amplified in this upcoming exhibition, as the works are located among living plants, as though one might have just happened upon them. The singularity and physicality of these objects is an ongoing point of intrigue for Craig. He notes, “In an increasingly digital, off-the-shelf world, this kind of simulation and creation has become more real.”

Craig’s exhibitions will be presented concurrently with *Fluent in the Language of Dreams*, a solo presentation of work by renowned artist Michele Oka Doner at Wasserman Projects, fostering a dialogue on the diverging approaches artists employ in their investigations of nature, the manmade, and material capability.

More About Jack Craig

Jack Craig currently resides and works in Detroit, Michigan. He was trained first as an engineer, receiving a Bachelor and Master of Science from the University of Maryland in 2001 and 2003, respectively. He later worked for the U.S. Navy on stealth technology, before leaving to pursue a career in the field of design. He attended University of Illinois, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art in Industrial Design in 2010. Subsequently, he received a Master of Fine Art in 3D Design at Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2012. He is a Visiting Artist at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has taught at a number of Metro

Detroit schools, including Lawrence Technological University and University of Michigan. Jack Craig currently exhibits through Salon 94 Design (formerly Johnson Trading Gallery).

About Butter Projects

Butter projects was founded in October of 2009 in Royal Oak, MI as a studio and exhibition space. Conceived to be flexible and open to a multitude of creative endeavors, the curatorial project seeks to engage the community and participate in the promotion of the arts in Metro-Detroit and beyond. Lead by Alison Wong and John Charnota, Butter Projects is an extension of their artistic practice, working with artists as a collaborator to present the work in new and innovative ways.

About Salon 94 Design

Salon 94 Design was established in 2017 by Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn and Paul Johnson. Since 2002 Salon 94 has hosted exhibitions of innovative art and design. After opening two more traditional galleries on the Lower East Side - Salon 94 Bowery and Salon 94 Freemans - Greenberg Rohatyn continued adding designers like Rick Owens and Martin Szekely. Now, Greenberg Rohatyn has partnered with Paul Johnson of Johnson Trading Gallery to found Salon 94 Design. With a growing roster of emerging and renowned designers, Salon 94 Design produces exhibitions that challenge the traditions and boundaries between fine art, functional objects, and the decorative arts.

About Wasserman Projects

Wasserman Projects was conceived by Michigan-native Gary Wasserman, and opened its doors in a former firehouse in Detroit's historic Eastern Market, one of the oldest and largest year-round markets in the U.S., in fall 2015. Wasserman Projects is guided by a spirit of collaboration, recognizing that artist projects are best realized and most meaningful when they engage a broad range of cultural organizers, community leaders, and the dynamic and diverse populations of Detroit. The organization works with artists from across disciplines and around the world, presenting exhibitions and performances that will spark a discourse on art, but also cultural, social, or political issues, which are particularly active and timely in Detroit. Wasserman Projects is nimble in its approach, operating in part as a for-profit gallery as well as a presentation space, and helps artists bring to fruition new projects that may not otherwise be possible.

###

For further information, please contact:

Alina E. Sumajin

PAVE Communications & Consulting

Co-founder and Principal

alina@paveconsult.com / 646-369-2050