

Flint Institute of Arts Acquires Sculpture by Matt Wedel



Matt Wedel, *Mourning Bench Head*, 2020, stoneware, 26 x 24 x 24 in. (66 x 61 x 61 cm) Museum purchase with funds donated by Friends of Modern Art, 2021.77

FLINT, MI: The Flint Institute of Arts, in concert with Wasserman Projects, Detroit, and L.A. Louver, Venice, CA, is pleased to announce the acquisition of Matt Wedel's *Mourning Bench Head* (2020). "We are thrilled to add Matt Wedel's *Mourning Bench Head* to our collection of contemporary ceramics," remarks John Henry, Executive Director of FIA. "This larger-than-life ceramic head, which was created during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, offers our visitors an interesting and thought-provoking exploration of the human condition and causes reflection on our collective shock and trauma of that time."

Wedel's series of *Mourning Bench Heads* comes out of a particular moment during which a global pandemic had fundamentally changed daily life. Wedel writes about the series:

"I see the objects of my practice as a recording device of consciousness. They are memory of visions outside of oneself. A record of states of knowing. After [the *Mourning Bench Heads*] came out of the kiln, I lined them in a row and I found myself sitting with them in various states of mourning. I was tired of not seeing my friends and family. I was sad for the fear of losing someone. I was sad for those we have lost. I was sad about the dysfunction and our struggle to find common ground as people. The heads became a place of rest in a process of grief. My hope is that they will hold this space for another."

The Flint Institute of Arts

The second largest art museum in Michigan, The Flint Institute of Arts is also one of the largest museum-connected community art schools in the United States. Its world-renowned collection, which exceeds 9,000 objects, is significant for its depth of important European and American paintings and sculptures, 15th century to the present, and its extensive holdings of decorative and applied arts including important ethnographic study collections dating back five millennia. The FIA promotes the power of the visual arts by providing lifelong learning opportunities to engage and educate a diverse regional audience. In 2018 a transformative expansion of the FIA was successfully accomplished by the architectural firm of Frederick Fisher and Partners, honoring the Institute's mission, history and community commitment while extending its scope.



Matt Wedel, *Mourning Bench Head*, 2020, installed at the Flint Institute of Arts

For more information about the Flint Institute of Arts, visit flintarts.org.



A Mark Extended installed at Wasserman Projects, featuring three *Mourning Bench Heads*. Photo: PD Rearick

Wasserman Projects

Wedel's *Mourning Bench Head* was acquired from the exhibition *A Mark Extended* at Wasserman Projects, Detroit. Wasserman Projects is a flexible and constantly evolving program of art, design, and music connecting artists from across all disciplines and around the world to promote immersive experiences with art, while helping artists bring to fruition new projects that may not otherwise be possible. Wasserman Projects strives to encourage creative and economic growth in the community, with a goal to become one of the many threads in the vibrant fabric that is Detroit.

For more information about Wasserman Projects, visit wassermanprojects.com.

L.A. Louver

Founded in Venice, California in 1975, L.A. Louver is committed to contemporary art through a distinguished exhibition program of Los Angeles based and international artists. The gallery has represented Matt Wedel since 2010 and has staged five solo exhibitions of his work, most recently *Everything is everything* in 2018-2019.

Matt Wedel was born and raised in Palisade, Colorado, and first began working with clay at a young age. Under the guidance of his father, a functional ceramicist, Wedel developed an early passion for making sculpture. He earned a BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, and an MFA from California State University, Long Beach, where he studied with artists Kristen Morgin and Tony Marsh. He currently works at his home studio in Southeast Ohio.

For more information about L.A. Louver and Matt Wedel, visit lalouver.com.

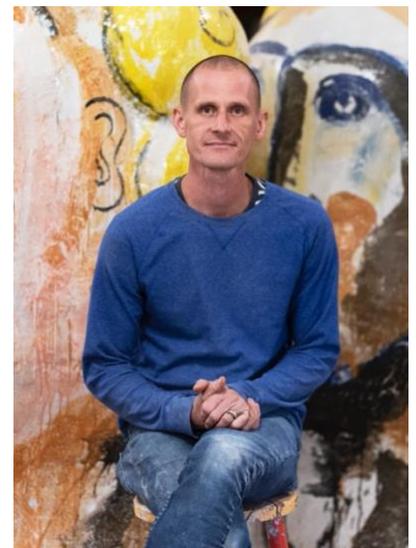


Photo: McKinley Law

