

TRIBUTARIES

exhibition series

Derived from the Museum's location along the Mississippi, as well as from the focus of the exhibition series, Tributaries features artists whose work is beginning to have a significant impact on the metal arts community.

FORMER TRIBUTARIES ARTISTS

2019

Monica Coyne
Jill Baker Gower
Tanya Crane

2018

Venetia Dale

2017

Zachery Lechtenberg
Caitie Sellers

2016

Cozette Phillips
Stephen Yusko

2015

Seth Gould
Vivian Beer

2014

Kirk Lang
Susie Ganch

2013

Kim Cridler
Gabriel Craig
Karin Jones
Andrew Hayes

2012

Sarah Perkins
Chris Irick
Lauren Kalman
Marlene True
Lola Brooks

2011

Miel Margarita Paredes
Stacey Lee Webber
Marc Maiorana
Andy Cooperman

2010

Susan Myers
Jessica Calderwood

2009

Jillian Moore
Michael Dale Bernard
Nathan Dube
Sylvie Rosenthal

2008

Haley Bates
Jeff Clancy
David Clemons
John Rais

OUR MISSION

To preserve, promote, and advance the art and craft of fine metalwork.



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metalmuseum.org/donate.

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METAL MUSEUM

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TRIBUTARIES

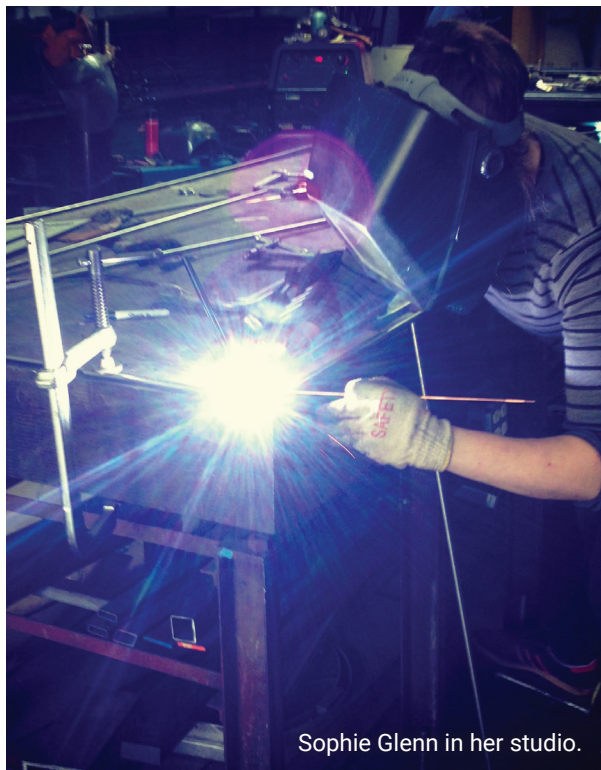
Sophie Glenn

RUST NEVER SLEEPS



MAR. 15 – MAY 17, 2020

METAL
MUSEUM



Sophie Glenn in her studio.

“My practice is often a reflection of my frustrations with juggling my roles as a furniture maker, woodworker, and metalworker.”

As a furniture maker and woodworker, I believe it is fundamentally important to understand the history and traditions of furniture making, and the key role of wood, as a material, in this history. However, the metalworker in me knows that steel has played an integral role in that history as well, not only for adding structure and support, but also in making wood look its absolute best.”

—SOPHIE GLENN



BIOGRAPHY

Born and raised in New York City, Sophie Glenn received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture at the State University of New York (Purchase, NY), and her Master of Fine Arts from San Diego State University (San Diego, CA), where she studied Furniture Design and Woodworking. She has also worked extensively as a metal fabricator and welder for independent makers and businesses across the country. She recently completed a three-year residency at the Appalachian Center for Craft (Smithville, TN) and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Sculpture at Mississippi State University (Starkville, MS).

STEEL OR WOOD?

Sophie Glenn’s designs are inspired by the history of furniture making. Sophie’s work addresses the history of wood within these movements while also wrestling with steel’s place within that history. Although wood has dominated the history of furniture design, the combination of wood and steel or glass in furniture is quite common, especially in the Mid-Century Modern era with designers like Isamu Noguchi. However, Sophie has found a new way to explore these two materials.

The works in the series *Rust Never Sleeps* are fabricated from steel, although they appear from a distance to be painted, wood antiques. In metalsmithing, fabrication is simply the process of building something from several separate pieces.

Sophie uses a combination of welding, sheet metal forming, and metal finishes, along with woodworking techniques like kerf bending (cutting small slots to create a bend) to create her unique designs. She cuts and shapes sheet metal, and then individual pieces are welded together to form the whole. Welding normally refers to the joining of ferrous metals, or those that contain iron, like steel. It is a process that involves using a torch to melt the edges of two pieces of metal, allowing the molecules to flow freely and fuse together. Sophie finishes her pieces with paint and then distresses the surface. The exposed metal is allowed to rust. She stated that the “expectation of bare wood becomes eclipsed by the reality of steel, and the roles of both materials is questioned and hopefully transformed for the better.”