

# THE *Krenov* FOUNDATION

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## THE 2016 TKF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

*I feel that the work of The Krenov Foundation is critical on a number of levels. On a global level, exhibitions and public education help spread the word about art and craft. I believe there is a subtle message being sent about the importance and enduring quality of objects lovingly created by hand in contrast with our plastic, disposable society.*

— Kelly Parker, 2016 TKF Professional Award Recipient

The Krenov Foundation Professional Development Award is the foundation's most recently funded award. The award of \$2500 is intended for an emerging fine



**Kelly Parker, Winner of TKF Professional Development Award 2016.**

woodworking professional to assist them as an artist-in-residence or visiting scholar at a nationally recognized woodworking school or craft center. Kelly Parker received the 2016 TKF Professional Development Award in September.

A veteran of eighteen years as an analytical chemist, Kelly Parker decided in 2010 to leave the corporate world to turn her passion for woodworking into a career. She opened Woodsong Studio in Kansas City, MO, and began an odyssey of learning from masters working in the craft today.

Kelly is uniquely dedicated to study, acquiring and building on skills in technique and in design. From 2009—2015, she lever-



**Kelly Parker's *Dichotomy*, redwood burl, ebonized mulberry, acrylic dowel; 29"x37"x16", 2016.**

aged what she had accomplished on her own by taking numerous design and technique courses at the Marc Adams School of Woodworking in Franklin, IN and the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass, CO. It took her three years to complete her masters by taking 3 or 4 classes each year at Marc Adams School of Woodworking, which was 500 miles from Kansas City, Kelly's home town.



*The Three Sisters*—Left: *Enchantment*; bamboo, ebonized ash, blackened aluminum dowel; 18"x19"x19"; 2014. Center: *Joyous*; birds eye maple, walnut, aluminum dowel & base; 19"x15"x15"; 2014. Right: *Daisy*; bamboo, walnut, aluminum dowel & inlay; 18"x19"x19"; 2014.



*Untitled*; walnut burl, walnut, plain sycamore, ebonized sycamore; 15"x27"x9"; 2015.

She also interned in David Polivka's studio in Kansas City in the spring of 2013, splitting her time between that studio's custom work and Kelly's first commission, a conference table for a local environmental organization. This was followed by a summer internship with Michael Fortune, one of Canada's leading furniture designers and makers.

During that summer, Kelly worked on Michael C. Fortune Studio projects for half the week, while pursuing her own work the other half. Kelly returned to Michael's studio the following two summers as an artist-in-residence.

Kelly is currently in The Michael Fortune Fellowship program, during which she will participate in MASW's Artist-in-Residency Program. Then, with the help of TKF Professional Development Award, Kelly will work on advanced wood bending techniques as an artist-in-residence at the Centre for Fine Woodworking in Nelson, New Zealand.

While tackling bending wood at CFW, Kelly will continue her focus on design, mixed media, and using reclaimed wood, "I think that the story of the wood's former life is an important one, and I write 'the story' for every piece that I make. The story includes where the wood came from, what it used to be and a lot about the process of building the piece."



*Penelope Cruz Chair*; ebonized ash, upholstery; 34"x19"x20"; 2016.