

## PRESS RELEASE

### The Minneapolis Institute of Art celebrates local makers from Minnesota and across America in collaboration with West Elm LOCAL

**Minneapolis Institute of Art**  
2400 Third Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
[artsmia.org](http://artsmia.org)



Marvin Freitas, a local maker based in Minneapolis, and one of his handcrafted hardwood tables. Images courtesy of Emily Freitas

Minneapolis, MN—February 1, 2016. The Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) announced today a partnership with West Elm, the Brooklyn, N.Y. based home furnishings retailer, to bring products from 14 makers and artisans from the West Elm LOCAL program to a temporary shop within The Store at Mia. The shop-in-shop will include four Minnesota based makers – Louise Gray, Marvin Freitas, Mod Dog and Oh Dier – and 10 makers from across the country. West Elm LOCAL is an initiative started in 2014 that today supports 500+ small businesses and local makers in communities across North America. The Store at Mia + West Elm LOCAL shop will open for a limited time beginning February 4 through May 29, 2016 and complements the “State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now” exhibition on view at Mia February 18 through May 29, 2016.

“The Store at Mia’s partnership with West Elm LOCAL highlights a shared dedication to celebrating local artisans, makers and designers from Minnesota and across America by showcasing their unique stories and product collections. Mia is committed to exploring new channels that deepen the visitor’s museum experience, and by aligning the timing of The Store at Mia + West Elm LOCAL with Mia’s “State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now” exhibition, people can extend the ideas behind the exhibition to a tangible, connected shopping experience,” said Hunter Wright, Venture Innovation Director at Mia.

“Our goal with West Elm LOCAL is to connect customers to the artists and makers in their communities. It’s an opportunity for people to potentially meet the artisan, learn about the making of a piece and create a human connection that truly changes the shopping experience,” said Mo Mullen, director of West Elm LOCAL. “Our partnership with The Store at Mia provides museum visitors a chance to discover local American talent while extending the platform for these 14 local makers to share their stories.”

The Store at Mia + West Elm LOCAL shop includes Minnesota makers Louise Gray (Alexandra Gray Bennet & Jocelin Johnson), Marvin Freitas, Mod Dog (John & Kari Finkler) and Oh Dier (William & Katie

# Mia

Dohman), in addition to 10 makers representing regions across America including Eric Trine (Long Beach, CA), Hemlock and Heather (Kristopher & Kelley Denby, Austin, TX), Molly M Designs (Molly McGrath, San Francisco, CA), Little Seed Farm (Eileen & James Ray, Lebanon, TN), BDB (Re Jin Lee, Brooklyn, NY), Bubo Handmade (Kristen Faircloth, Nashville, TN), Goods That Matter (Tippy Tippens, New Orleans, LA), Happy Habitat by Karrie Kaneda (Kansas City, MO), M.F.E.O. (Aaron & Claire Van Holland, Los Angeles, CA), and Monroe Trades (Patrick Glynn, Brooklyn, NY).

"State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now" is an exhibition on view at Mia February 18 through May 29, 2016 that draws from every region of the United States, offering an unusually diverse snapshot of contemporary American art. The Store at Mia + West Elm LOCAL will open during museum hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 10-5, Thursday and Friday 10-9, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 11-5

For more information on the makers and to access biographies and images of the products included in the West Elm LOCAL shop, please visit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kf8abh6kvdrqcs/AACMQn4aNN1B4YdGPuCaLKova?dl=0>

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## Press Contacts

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## About The Minneapolis Institute of Art

Home to more than 89,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country—Rembrandt to van Gogh, Monet to Matisse, Asian to African—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

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## Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday	10am–5pm
Thursday, Friday	10am–9pm
Sunday	11am–5pm
Monday	Closed

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit [artsmia.org](http://artsmia.org)

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