



*IN THE SPIRIT OF WOOD*

## OTTO NEALS

Born: Lake City, South Carolina, 1930  
Brooklyn Museum Art School, with  
Isaac Sawyer, 1963  
Bob Blackburn's Printmaking Workshop, with  
Krishna Reddy, 1970-71

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1986 Dorsey's Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
1985 The New Muse, Brooklyn, NY  
1984 843 Studio Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
1976 Benin Gallery, New York, NY



Otto Neals, *The Elder*, 24" x 8", Sycamore, Mother of Pearl, Bone, 1978.

## JOHN W. RHODEN

Born: Birmingham, Alabama, 1916  
Talladega College, 1935-38  
Studied with Richmond Barthe, 1938  
School of Painting and Sculpture  
at Columbia University with  
Oronzo Maldarelli, Hugo Robus and  
William Zorach

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1985 Birmingham Museum of Art, Ala.
- 1982 Afro-American Historical and  
Cultural Museum, Philadelphia,  
PA
- 1963 Frick Museum, University of  
Pittsburgh, PA
- 1955 Fairweather-Hardin Gallery,  
Chicago, IL



John W. Rhoden, *Mother and Child II*, 42", Rosemalla Wood, 1962.

The fascination of man with the tree as object, as metaphor evolves from and continues an anthropomorphic vision. The tree as a living, elemental force has been regarded through time as a symbolic and archetypic source for all manner of gesture found in representations of primordial gods, Gothic cathedrals, totemic spirits and bridging the modern landscape as a vehicle for dialogue.

Indeed, the tree is a bridge, stabilizing the earth, the atmosphere, and man. As matter, wood is a living force; as material its flexibility, and its longevity invite man to work with or against its grain; its munificence offers shelter, power to penetrate the invisible world, and a sense of the power to create or recreate the world.

As a living, moving force, wood presents an ideal challenge to the sculptor. In three dimensions, the wood object causes the viewer to move around it, thereby recreating the natural force and completing the circle. This conceptual idea adds to the vitality of the matter conceived. For man, ancient and modern, the connection with wood is closely allied to the spirit of life.

Corrine Jennings  
April, 1987



## STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Born: United Kingdom, 1952  
Byam Shaw School of Art, 1969-73  
Liverpool Polytechnic, 1973-74

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

1986 Sue Rankin Gallery, London,  
England  
1983 ICAF, London, England  
1983 Chateau des Ducs, Duras, France  
1982 Murdoch Lothian Fine Art,  
Liverpool, England

KENKELEBA GALLERY  
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