

A mature tree has witnessed much. In complete silence it stands immobile, a god consciousness.

- George Nakashima

Sentinels from another time, trees have long been woven into folklore, religion, worship and superstition. In fact, humankind's connection to forests, and the trees that grow within them, is as old as history itself. To carve, craft or manipulate a piece of wood is to enter into an ancient tradition and relationship, the roots of which are present to this day in our superstitions and our language.

In ancient pagan cultures it was believed that Spirits lived in trees. Therefore, touching a tree would have been a way to call on the Gods in order to ask for protection, show gratitude, or ward off bad luck. The phrase "knock on wood" is thought to stem from this belief. It recognizes that to touch wood is to connect with something much larger and much older than oneself. Language reflects this connection as well. In Ancient Rome it was believed that all life sprung up spontaneously from the Earth like a tree might grow. This belief is still codified in English today. Over time "mater" — the Latin word for "mother" —transformed into "matter" and "material", thereby inextricably linking the birth of man to the substances of Mother Earth.

In May of 2025, Egg Collective will host *Knock on Wood* an exhibition focused on contemporary artists who manipulate wood and investigate chance in their process. Playing on themes of luck, while also exploring the idea of material kinship, the exhibition will highlight the reciprocal relationship between makers and their materials. Calling into question the extractivist mindset that serves as the framework for much of contemporary culture, *Knock on Wood* aims to reanimate one of our most ubiquitous materials with its due nobility, warmth and majesty.

Exhibition Details

Group Exhibition	<i>Knock on Wood</i>
Location	Egg Collective 151 Hudson Street New York NY 10013
Opening	May 13, 2025 from 5-8PM
Works by	Natasha Alphonse Suzanne Caporael Hildegard Haas Minjae Kim Kieran Kinsella Kiva Motnyk Rodger Stevens Joshua Vogel Julian Watts Rick Yoshimoto

The Gallery

Through its many exhibitions, Egg Collective has been honored to collaborate and worked with a wide range of individuals and institutions including but not limited to:

ARTISTS & DESIGNERS

Ben Medansky, Brian Thoreen, Carmen Winant, Caroline Blackburn, Cini Boeri, Charlotte Perriand, Greta Magnusson Grossman, Dana Barnes, Eileen Gray, Eva Zeisel, Faith Ringgold, Gae Aulenti, Golnar Adili, Hannah Whitaker, Hiroko Takeda, Imogen Cunningham, Jeff Martin, Jaye Kim, Julian Watts, Katie Stout, Lindsey Adelman, Leza Mcvey, Lella Vignelli / Vignelli Associates, Line Vautrin, Loretta Pettway Bennett / Gees Bend, Louise Bourgeois, Lilian Holm, Marta Palmieri, Mimi Jung, Mira Nakashima, Maria Pergay, Molly Haynes, Nanna Ditzel, Natalie Weinberger, Nicola L. Rooms, Renate Müller, Sabine Marcelis, Sonwai, Shawna X, Taylor Kibby, Tahereh Fallahzadeh, & Tealia Ellis Ritter

GALLERIES & INSTITUTIONS

The Future Perfect, Hostler Burrows, Etage Projects, Christina Grajales Gallery, Mark McDonald, Lost City Arts, Bruce Silverstein, Demisch Danant, Greg Kucera Gallery, Harlan & Weaver, J. Lohmann Gallery, Magen H Gallery, Maison Gerard, Marinaro Gallery, Mrs. Gallery, R & Company, Studio Twenty Seven & Susanna Gold Gallery

The Imogen Cunningham Trust, The Easton Foundation, Royal Institute of British Architects, Victoria and Albert Museum & National Museum of Ireland

EGG COLLECTIVE

The Company

Egg Collective is a New York-based design firm established in 2011 by Stephanie Beamer, Crystal Ellis, and Hillary Petrie. Before Egg Collective was a company, it was an idea. Conceived of as a creative partnership synthesizing its founder's backgrounds in art, architecture, and woodworking, this notion evolved into an ethos: Materials are sacred and are imbued with infinite potential. The act of creation carries responsibility. Beauty has value, not merely for reasons of aesthetic gratification, but because the essential character of any object is defined by the circumstances of its creation.

Firmly rooted in New York City, Egg Collective operates a workshop located in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and a gallery located in the Tribeca neighborhood. From these two locations, Egg Collective fulfills its mission of stewarding craftsmanship while also creating a dialogue between the applied arts and the fine arts.



egg collective