

# ANITA SHAPOLSKY ART FOUNDATION

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## ANITA SHAPOLSKY ART FOUNDATION PRESENTS PHILADELPHIA ARTIST FRANK HYDER, MAY 23-JULY 19, 2009 IN SEASON OPENER

Hyder's *Odyssey* takes us on a journey through his use of the woodblock and gives a glimpse into his experimental three-dimensional forms. The work, as a whole, is strongly connected to the Taoist philosophy of man's place in nature and the role of energy in nature's composition. The rhythmic images of his painted wooden carvings present a poetic reference to Hyder's time spent living in the jungles of South America and experiencing space without a horizon. His contemplative mark and overlapping figures reflect insight and energy while providing a sense of serenity. The spiritual essence of this work is revealed as we are pulled into the depths of the quiet. In Hyder's woodcuts, what appears close is incised and what appears flat is lush and heavily layered. The carved lines are gilded, suggesting a divine presence as they twist and turn forcefully before us, creating an image both visual and visceral. As remarked by Edward Lucie-Smith in Hyder's catalog from his recent New York solo exhibition, "Hyder is a master of . . . woodcut."

Known for his color and mixed media reconstructed images, this body of work is pared down to an elegant, minimal simplicity. Borrowing construction strategies from indigenous cultures, the artist assembles simple structures. Reminiscent of forest shelters, the sculptural pieces also connect to modern architectural forms such as those found in the works of Gego. Exhibiting these core architectural works together with the carved blocks creates a poetic balance between flat and round, finished and raw. Hyder steps into new terrain here neither as solely painter, printmaker or sculptor. *Odyssey* is truly a spiritual and intellectual quest that the artist has undertaken through his use of the block, the print and now the elemental form.

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Hyder has participated in over 80 solo exhibitions and 150 group shows throughout North, Central and South America. A Senior Fulbright Award in 2001 sent the artist to Venezuela for a year, where his experiences abroad inspired him to produce a prodigious body of work, which was displayed in Venezuela's three major Contemporary Art Museums. Hyder lives in Philadelphia and teaches at Moore College of Art.

**ALSO ON VIEW** - Paintings and sculpture from the Foundation's permanent collection: Works by Ernest Briggs, Seymour Boardman, John Hartman and others from the 1950s-1980s.

Foundation hours: Sat. & Sun., 11am-5pm and by appointment. Memorial Day, 11am-5pm, and by appointment. (570) 325-5815 or (610) 442-4148.  
[www.asartfoundation.org](http://www.asartfoundation.org).

**NOTE: JPGS ARE AVAILABLE.**