



October 2015

**Nicholas R. Bell**  
**The Fleur and Charles Bresler Curator-In-Charge, Renwick Gallery**

Nicholas R. Bell is The Fleur and Charles Bresler Curator-In-Charge of the Renwick Gallery, the Smithsonian American Art Museum's branch for contemporary craft and decorative art, where he oversees research, publications, acquisitions, and exhibitions. He has been a curator at the museum since 2009. His research interests include American craft, decorative art in America from the 17th through the 21st centuries, folk and self-taught art, and theories of material culture.

Bell organized the reopening exhibition following the Renwick Gallery's two-year renovation. Titled *WONDER*, the project turns over nine gallery spaces to site-specific installations by major contemporary artists—Jennifer Angus, Chakaia Booker, Gabriel Dawe, Tara Donovan, Patrick Dougherty, Janet Echelman, John Grade, Maya Lin, and Leo Villareal. Bell previously curated the highly praised Renwick Gallery's 40th anniversary exhibition, *40 under 40: Craft Futures* (2012). Other recent exhibitions include *Untitled: The Art of James Castle* (2014), *A Measure of the Earth: The Cole-Ware Collection of American Baskets* (2013), *History in the Making: Renwick Craft Invitational 2011* (2011) and *A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection* (2010). Bell was the author of catalogues for each exhibition. He is also editor of the anthology *Nation Building: Craft and Contemporary American Culture*, based on the proceedings of the Renwick Gallery's 40th anniversary symposium. He has written for a variety of publications including *Winterthur Portfolio* and *American Furniture*.

Bell earned a bachelor's degree from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia (2005), and a master's degree from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware (2008).

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