

# Hallie Ford *Museum of Art*

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

For immediate release: May 9, 2023

Media contact: Andrea Foust

Membership and Public Relations Manager

Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University | 503-370-6867

Public contact: 503-370-6855 | [museum-art@willamette.edu](mailto:museum-art@willamette.edu)

Exhibition website: [www.willamette.edu/go/tom-prochaska](http://www.willamette.edu/go/tom-prochaska)



## **New exhibition showcases the work of Portland artist Tom Prochaska**

SALEM, Ore.— The Hallie Ford Museum of Art's newest exhibition, "Tom Prochaska: Music for Ghosts," presents a retrospective look at the career of this longtime Portland artist — well known for his open-ended narrative work created through a variety of media, including painting, drawing, prints, and glass. Organized by curator Jonathan Bucci, the exhibition features 70 works spanning over 50 years and opens June 6 and continues through August 26 in the Melvin Henderson-Rubio Gallery.

Prochaska's work presents a cast of characters populating small villages, cafes, industrial or desolate landscapes, domestic interiors, and creative spaces like studios or stages. The narratives created among these figures and places generate a mix of gravity, humor, menace, satire, and a range of art historical references. Known primarily as a painter, printmaker, and draftsman, Prochaska has, over his long career, explored a range of materials, including figurative sculptures created from papier-mâché and an extensive body of work created in kiln-

formed glass. This exhibition traces the course of his career, beginning with early prints and drawings that have rarely been seen and continuing into his mature work of the past 20 years. There will also be new paintings on view for the first time.

Exhibition curator Jonathan Bucci says, "With a wry smile, Tom tells stories that feel simultaneously vague and specific, walking a line between abstraction and representation. His imagery and compositions emerge from the interplay between material and process, lending themselves to the different mediums he effortlessly shifts between."

Born in Chicago, Prochaska arrived in Portland in 1979. As a printmaker with experience working in fine art print shops in New York and Switzerland, he quickly became enmeshed in the burgeoning artist-driven scene of Portland in the early 1980s. He was a founder of two Portland print shops, Inkling Studio (1981) and Atelier Mars (1990). Prochaska taught for 29 years at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, and in the early 1980s at Oregon School of Arts and Craft and Portland State University. He influenced a generation of artists as both a teacher and artist and has played an important role in the city's cultural growth.

Prochaska earned his BA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and his MFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. Since 2001, he has been represented by the Froelick Gallery in Portland. Additionally, he has exhibited extensively throughout the United States and the world. His work can be found in museum collections internationally, including the Gilkey Center for the Graphic Arts, Portland Art Museum, OR; the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Salem, OR; Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA; Ha China National Academy of Fine Arts, Hangzhou, China and New York Public Library, NY. In 2015, he was named one of five Hallie Ford Fellows in the Visual Arts by the Ford Family Foundation. In September 2018, he exhibited a series of etchings in Lugano, Switzerland.

Special complementary events include a panel discussion on Saturday, June 3, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Paulus Lecture Hall at the Willamette University College of Law located at 245 Winter St. SE. Panelists include Tom Prochaska, Laurie Danial, Laurel Reed Pavic, and Morgan Walker, with Jonathan Bucci moderating. In addition, two Tuesday gallery talks with Jonathan Bucci will take place at 12:30 p.m. on June 13 and August 8 at the museum.

This exhibition has been made possible with funds from the HFMA Exhibition Fund, advertising support from "The Oregonian"/Oregon Live, and by general operating support grants from the City of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax funds and the Oregon Arts Commission.

---

### **About the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University**

As one of the finest academic art museums in the Northwest, the museum features works by Pacific Northwest and Native American artists, and includes a diverse collection of traditional European, American and Asian art, as well as artifacts that date from antiquity. Frequently changing exhibitions include lectures, special events, tours, artist demonstrations, educational opportunities for children and adults, as well as important publications.

The museum is located at 700 State St. in Salem. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. The galleries are closed on Sunday and Monday. General admission is \$8, \$5 for seniors; students and educators (18+ with ID), and children 17 and under are admitted free. Admission is free for everyone on Tuesdays.

For more information call 503-370-6855 or visit [willamette.edu/arts/hfma](http://willamette.edu/arts/hfma).

###

---

### Available Images and Credit Lines

HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES Copyright Notice: The images in this press release are for publicity purposes only, intended for use by journalists in media-related publications. Use of any image must be accompanied by its credit line. Use of these images by any other parties or for any other purposes, private or commercial, is strictly prohibited unless the express written consent is obtained directly from the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. For information regarding educational, personal and commercial use of images, please visit our Copyrights & Reproductions page (<https://willamette.edu/arts/hfma/collections/copyright.html>).

For high-resolution images contact Andrea Foust at 503-370-6867 or at [afoust@willamette.edu](mailto:afoust@willamette.edu)



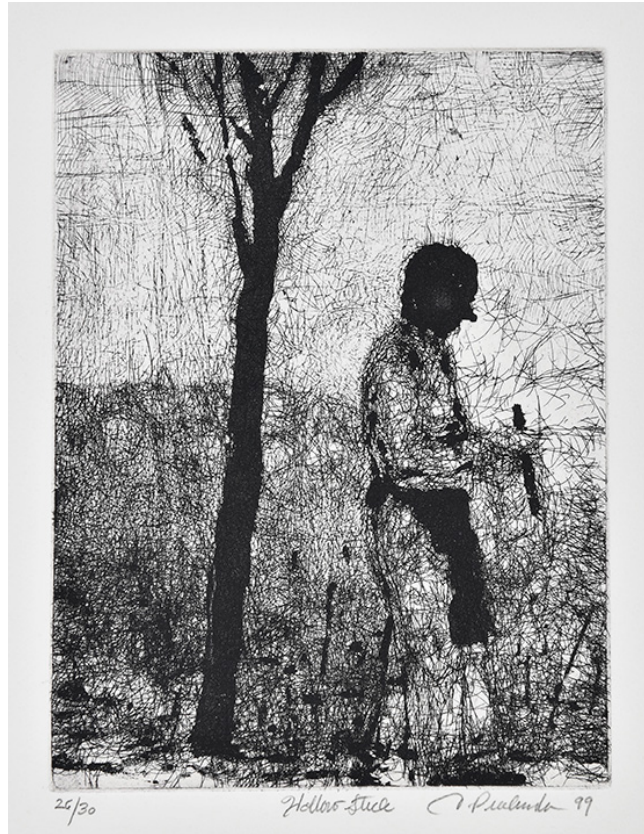
Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Music for Ghosts," 2011, acrylic on panel, 12 x 16 inches, private collection. Photo: Froelick Gallery.



Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Tim's Great Escape," 2001, oil on canvas, 49 x 65 inches, Tacoma Art Museum.



Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Boxer 1 and Boxer 2," 2017, papier-mâché, 17 x 11 x 6 inches, private collection. Photo: Froelick Gallery.



Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Hollow Stick," 1999, etching, 8 x 6 inches, collection of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, Salem, OR, gift of James Archer, 2015.033.014.



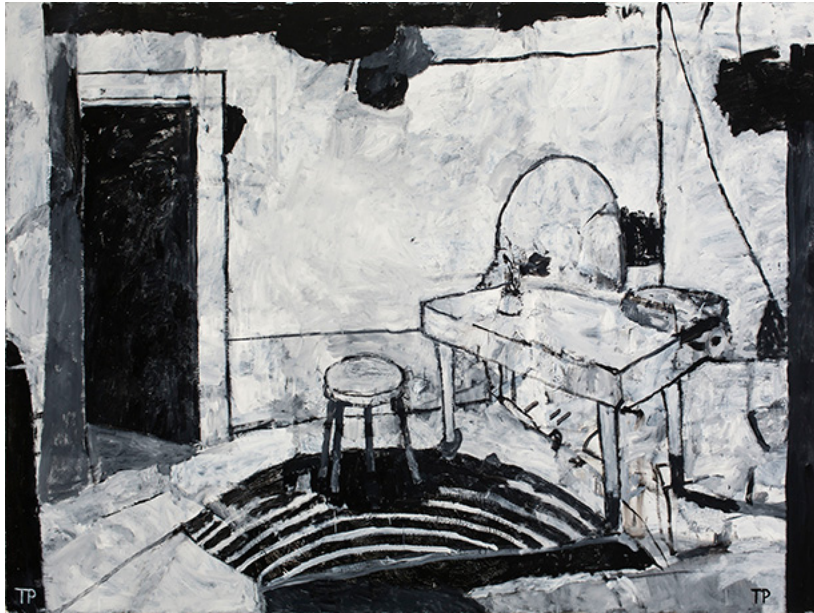
Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Circus Magic," 2003, kiln-formed glass, 40 x 24 inches, collection of Bullseye Glass Co.



Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Boy with Accordion," 2017, oil on panel, 23 inch diameter, courtesy of the artist and Froelick Gallery.



Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Café," 2021, 16 x 20 inches, oil on panel, private collection. Photo: Froelick Gallery.



Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Open Door," 2014, oil on canvas, 66 x 88 inches, courtesy of the artist and Froelick Gallery.



Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Blue Boxer," 2016, oil on panel, 16 x 20 inches, private collection.



Tom Prochaska (American, born 1945), "Oregon," 2013, oil on canvas, 54 x 72 inches, collection of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, Salem, OR, Maribeth Collins Art Acquisition Fund, 2013.022.



Tom Prochaska, 2018. Photo by Aaron Johanson.





Tom Prochaska in his studio, 2018. Photo by Aaron Johanson.

---

## Interviews

Interviews with exhibition artist Tom Prochaska or curator Jonathan Bucci can be arranged by calling 503-370-6867.