

Arts This Week: Mel Kendrick And Frontline Songs



A series of small sculptures and photographs from "Mel Kendrick: Seeing Things in Things"

Rory Sheil/GBH News

By GBH News

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Jared Bowen On Morning Edition | April 22, 2021

This week, Jared Bowen takes us through a retrospective of the work of Mel Kendrick and shares a new track from Frontline Songs.

"Mel Kendrick: Seeing Things in Things," on view at the Addison Gallery of American Art through October 3, 2021



Rory Sheil/GBH News

The Addison Gallery of American Art presents the first-ever retrospective of artist Mel Kendrick. Through more than 60 sculptures, photographs, woodblock prints and what Kendrick calls "tabletop sketches," "Seeing Things in Things" traces the artist's process of disassembly and reconfiguration through a variety of materials. Inspired by predecessors like Umberto Boccioni, Constantin Brancusi and Pablo Picasso, Kendrick's unique sculptures – mainly created in wood – have a strong sense of animation and bear the markings of the artist's hand as they reveal insight into a how-did-he-do-that process.

"Some people say once you put a pencil line on paper you can't really erase it, and I don't try to," says Kendrick. "If I make a mistake, whatever a mistake is, something I don't like, I stick it back together with glue and then I keep on. And that, to me, is drawing."