

# Betty Scarpino – Night Wind

Betty Scarpino shares this textured, carved and bleached sculptural piece with us which was created for a commission

Creating a sculpture on commission involves a dialogue of trust. I first met Kay Kitagawa and Andy John-Laird in Canada at the Emma Lake Collaborative, a five-day event held in a beautiful, remote area in northern Saskatchewan. Kay and Andy were there to experience makers creating and to record video interviews of several artists, myself included. We shared meals and lively conversations.

After the event, Kay and Andy asked if I would be interested in creating a sculpture for them. I was delighted, and after discussing options, I began working on ideas. More than a year later, I delivered 'Night Wind'.

Commission pieces are an emotional challenge. I feel the pressure of the trust placed in my creative abilities. I knew Kay and Andy liked my work, but would they like this particular piece? They do.

I enjoyed the nights at Emma Lake. Even with minimal electricity there was much to see and hear: stars, clouds rushing past a bright moon, treetops

lit by moonlight, romance of the wind. Night Wind captures some of what we all felt nighttimes.

To make the piece, I turned a plate from solid walnut (*Juglans regia*), 485mm diameter by 75mm thick. I added grooves all across the concave side and part way across the back. Next came carving,

then bleaching the areas where the grooves remained, and then sanding. A bit of texture suggests the darkness of a moonless night. The motion contained within the form gives rise to the wind. •

Web: [www.bettyscarpino.com](http://www.bettyscarpino.com)

'Night Wind',  
2011, walnut  
(*Juglans regia*),  
bleach, 485mm  
dia. Collection of  
Kay Kitagawa  
and Andy  
Johnson-  
Laird

