Rhode Island was the center of a dynamic and active cabinetmaking trade during the colonial and Federal periods, and its makers produced some of the most iconic pieces of American furniture ever created. *Art and Industry in Early America: Rhode Island Furniture, 1650–1830*, the first major survey of early Rhode Island furniture in half a century, gathers more than one hundred examples of their work. On display are some of the masterpieces of American furniture—many from the two great centers of Rhode Island furniture making, Newport and Providence. These are presented alongside objects made in smaller towns, such as Warren and Coventry, illuminating how their makers interpreted the styles of the more populous centers. The 2016 Oswaldo Rodriguez Roque Memorial Lecture and Symposium is being presented in conjunction with the exhibition.

All programs are held in the Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Lecture Hall unless otherwise noted.

**Thursday, September 15**

5:30 pm
Opening Keynote
*Studying American Furniture in the Present*
Philip D. Zimmerman, museum and decorative-arts consultant

6:30 pm
Reception
Jan and Frederick Mayer Lobby

**Friday, September 16**

8:30 am
Registration

9:00 am
Welcome

9:15 am
*A Lively Experiment: Innovation and Diversity in Early Rhode Island Furniture, 1636–1740*
Dennis Carr, the Carolyn and Peter Lynch Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

10:00 am
*Reading between the Lines: What Do Early Records Reveal about the Lives and Trade of Rhode Island Cabinetmakers?*
Patricia E. Kane, Friends of American Arts Curator of American Decorative Arts, Yale University Art Gallery

10:40 am
Break

11:15 am
*From Gentility to Bankruptcy: The Colorful Lives and Work of Rhode Island Upholstersers*
Jennifer N. Johnson, Research Associate, Rhode Island Furniture Archive, Yale University Art Gallery

12:00–1:30 pm
Lunch break

1:30 pm
*Craftsmen and Customers of Rhode Island Windsor Seating*
Nancy Goyne Evans, independent furniture historian

2:15 pm
*The Clocks of Colonial and Early Federal Rhode Island*
Gary R. Sullivan, fine-arts dealer and independent scholar

3:00 pm
Question-and-Answer Session

**Acknowledgments**

The memorial lecture and symposium are made possible by the Oswaldo Rodriguez Roque Memorial Lectureship Fund, established by a generous gift from the Chipstone Foundation and contributions by family, friends, and colleagues in memory of Oswaldo Rodriguez Roque, B.A. 1972, M.A. 1975, a scholar of American paintings and decorative arts.