

The Nature of Things

THE ABSTRACT sculptor Mel Kendrick is getting his first retrospective, at the Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass. “Mel Kendrick: Seeing Things in Things” runs from April 10 through July 31 and features more than 60 sculptures, including two outdoor installations commissioned by the Addison, plus sketches, prints, and photographs.

Kendrick, an alumnus of Phillips Academy, studied with Robert Morris and Tony Smith, from whom he learned to shun illusionism and explore in depth the nature of the materials he used. In his work, Kendrick is guided by the properties of wood, rubber, and concrete and raises questions about the relationships between the organic and the synthetic and between representation and abstraction.

“This is a long-overdue opportunity to examine the career of one of the boldest and most consistently adventurous artists of his generation,” says Allison Kemmerer, the exhibition’s curator and interim director of the Addison Gallery. “Products of a simultaneously analytical and intuitive process, his works are visual puzzles that reward the patient and curious.”

