

Malooof

A Newsletter for Friends of the Foundation



Beverly Maloof (left) and Maloof Foundation President Connie Ransom raise their glasses in celebration of Maloof Centennial 2016, with additional programs on tap for fall.

Smithsonian Symposium Explores Future of Furniture

“Furniture and the Future,” a day-long symposium presented jointly by the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Renwick Gallery and The Maloof Foundation, will be held September 16 in Washington, D.C.

The symposium will examine historical and contemporary design and production of furniture and related objects in light of the fundamental changes brought about by the digital age, considering not only how furniture is transforming to meet the needs of contemporary society, but also the broader implications of why we make, what we make, and how it affects our world.

The symposium is made possible with support from the James Renwick

Alliance, the Windgate Foundation and Woodcraft Supply.

Michael Prokopow of OCAD University, Toronto will deliver the keynote presentation. Additional comments will be provided by architect Witold Rybcynski, author of the new book *Now I Sit Me Down: From Kilsmos to Plastic Chair*, and Paul Sacaridiz of Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine.

Glenn Adamson, curator and advocate for the reconsideration of craft as a pervasive cultural force rather than a circumscribed artistic category, will moderate a panel of furniture artists.

The symposium is free to the public, in-person in DC or anywhere via webcast. See page 3 for details.

Centennial in Full Swing for Fall



Since its launch in January, the Maloof Centennial has brought forward a wealth of exhibitions, books, tours, articles and more to celebrate the life and legacy of Sam Maloof (1916–2009). Several projects arriving this fall add to the story, as they consider Maloof’s lasting influence, and what the future may hold.

Read on to find out more about what’s in store at venues from Los Angeles to Washington, DC.

Smithsonian Renwick Gallery—Now and Ongoing

Visitors to the nation’s capital may view Maloof work on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Renwick Gallery, which reopened in 2015 after a two-year renovation.

The museum’s reinstalled permanent collection display features Maloof’s Low-Back Side Chair (1995), one of Sam’s most iconic pieces. An exquisitely sculpted work in ziricote and ebony, the chair also appears in the Renwick’s permanent collection catalog.



Low-Back Side Chair (1995)
Smithsonian American Art Museum, gift of Alfreda and

Sam Maloof in honor of Michael W. Monroe, curator-in-charge, Renwick Gallery (1986-1995), © 1995, Sam Maloof



MALOOF CENTENNIAL

EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS, BOOKS & MORE



More than two million visitors to Los Angeles International Airport Terminal 3 (Arrivals Level) will have a chance to see *Furniture as Art as Furniture*, a pop-up exhibit organized by Stephen Courtney, Harold Greene and Hannah Hempstead in collaboration with the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles World Airports. The displayed works, including Maloof's ingenious Musician's Chair, will highlight Sam's role as a pioneer in America's studio furniture movement. The exhibit also notes his influence on a current generation of Southern California designers and makers.

Jurors for the LAX project included LACMA decorative arts curator Bobbye Tigerman, Huntington Library curator of American decorative arts Hal Nelson, and San Diego State University educator and artist Wendy Maruyama. The jurors selected 20 contemporary furniture artists whose works will be shown alongside the Maloof chair.

An accompanying catalog, with foreword by Smithsonian Fellow Oscar P. Fitzgerald, a noted author and historian of American decorative arts, will survey additional works, with examples from more than 80 contemporary Southern California furniture makers, including a chair by Mike Johnson of Sam Maloof Woodworker.

Meet the Artists!

Opening Day Reception

Sunday, October 2, 1–4 p.m.

The second of two centennial exhibitions at The Maloof in 2016, *California Wood Artists* brings together recent works by 39 of the state's leading wood sculptors, woodworkers and furniture makers. (See article on pages 4 and 5.)



Smithsonian Affiliates Director Harold Closter discovers *Washington Post* review of the book *Sam Maloof Woodworker: 36 Views of a Master Craftsman* by Fred Setterberg.

Sit By Me

October 29, 2016–January 29, 2017

Riverside Art Museum in Riverside, CA will consider Maloof's legacy in inspiring contemporary studio furniture makers. The exhibition titled *Sit By Me* encompasses works by innovative makers designing with wood, metal and other materials. Featured artists include Mike Johnson, Geoffrey Keating, Laura Kishimoto, Laura Mays, Brandon Morrison and Reed Hansuld.

Maloof Veterans Weekend

Made possible with the support of Woodcraft Supply.

October 7–9

The Maloof Veterans Workshop introduces veterans to the healing effects of art-making through a three-day exploration of the skills, tools, materials and processes of woodworking.

In 2016, for the first time, the workshop will serve women veterans, the self-described “she-roes” of the nation's military. Workshop participants will also learn of the important contributions of Sam's wife Alfreda, a WWII veteran of the US Navy Waves.

Visitors are invited to meet the participants following the Saturday session on October 8, after 4:30 p.m.



Architect Ann Kovara shares her experiences as project manager for relocation of The Maloof Historic Home in a new book, *Moving Sam Maloof*, on sale in the Maloof Store.

Library Celebrates Sam Maloof

October 8, 4:30–7:30 p.m.

The Rancho Cucamonga Public Library welcomes patrons to The Maloof for an early evening celebration of books, art, food and more.

Admission to the *California Wood Artists* exhibition, Discovery Garden and open house tours of the Maloof Historic Home is free to all with a current library card, and those without cards may obtain them during the event. For visitors without library cards, tickets for Open House Tours of the Maloof Historic Home will be available for \$5 each.

Library patrons may also sign up to check-out one of two new Maloof books. *Sam Maloof: 36 Views of a Master Woodworker* by Fred Setterberg has been named a finalist for a Southern California Booksellers award in the category of Art, Architecture and Photography. In *Moving Sam Maloof*, author Ann Kovara recounts her experiences as the architect responsible for managing the relocation of the Maloof Historic Home and Workshop.

Mexican Folk Art Weekend

November 26–27, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

The Maloofs' passion for collecting southwestern and Mexican art will be alive and well at Mexican Folk Art weekend, which returns this year to its usual spot on Thanksgiving Weekend. The seventeenth annual event will feature art and artists from Mata Ortiz, Teotitlan del Valle, Santa Clara del Cobre and Oaxaca, Mexico.

The weekend features artist demonstrations and art for sale including hand-crafted pottery, alebrijes, silverware, textiles and more. Maloof Historic Home open house tours, 1–3 p.m., tickets: \$5 each.

Holiday Shopping at The Maloof

December 3, 10, and 17

Experience the holidays as Sam and Alfreda might have celebrated them! Enjoy holiday decorations, tours, treats and unique gifts and books for that special someone. Saturdays, Noon–3 p.m.

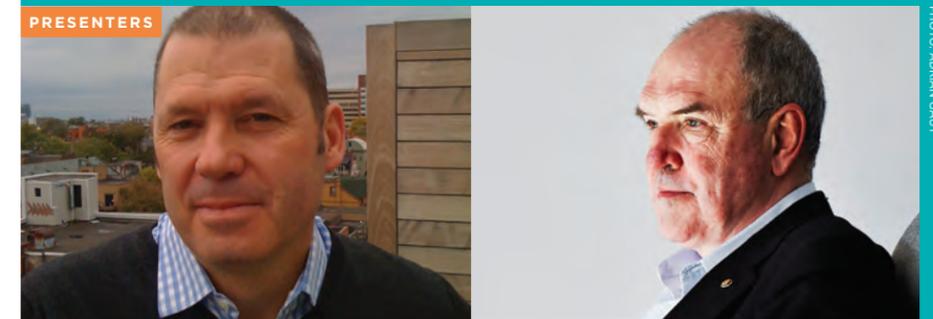
SMITHSONIAN SYMPOSIUM

Furniture and the Future

Why We Make, What We Make and How It Affects Our World



Top row, Symposium artist panelists include acclaimed sculptor and furniture designer **Wendell Castle**; artist **Wendy Maruyama** offers insights from years leading an influential furniture design program at San Diego State University; Maloof Resident Artist **Larry White** shares perspectives from his years working alongside Sam Maloof; Bottom row, **Christy Oates** applies digital tools to furniture-making. Her work appears in the new *California Wood Artists* exhibition; Furniture innovators **Bill Hilgendorf** and **Jason Horvath**, co-founders of Brooklyn's Uhuru design firm.



Left, Cultural historian and curator **Michael Prokopow** will deliver Smithsonian keynote; Architect **Witold Rybczynski**, author of the new book *Now I Sit Me Down*, explores the history of chairs, including those of Sam Maloof.

The symposium is made possible with support from the James Renwick Alliance, the Windgate Foundation and Woodcraft Supply.

Smithsonian American Art Museum
McEvoy Auditorium, Washington DC
Friday, September 16
10 a.m.–5 p.m. (EST)

Webcast of the event will be available online, via the Smithsonian's website.
<http://s.si.edu/maloof2016>
(7 a.m.–2 p.m. Pacific)

Presenters

Michael Prokopow
Witold Rybczynski
Paul Sacaridiz

Moderator

Glenn Adamson



EXHIBITION

California Wood Artists

Jacobs Education Center Gallery, October 2, 2016–February 11, 2017



Sam Maloof's legacy may be measured by the more than 5,000 furniture works he created in his lifetime, as well as by his lasting influence on artists, woodworkers and others who may take inspiration from the Maloof aesthetic.

As the second of two exhibitions to be offered at The Maloof Foundation during the centennial year, *California Wood Artists* brings together recent works by 39 contemporary sculptors and furniture makers. Bold, beautiful and creative, the featured pieces demonstrate that wood art is alive and thriving in the Golden State.

The artists range from well-known and celebrated master woodworkers Gary Knox Bennett, John Cederquist,

Barbara Holmes and Laura Mays to many less well-known or emerging makers—some at the very start of their careers. Placed side-by-side in the gallery, the works invite a dialog that speaks to California's inimitable spirit for inventing the future.

Just as Maloof found new and surprising ways to shape, sculpt, join and finish wood, in the works of those who come after Maloof, we see astonishing examples of imagination and skill. Sam would be proud.

Although Maloof's tool box contained a rather narrow range of mostly traditional woodworking tools, more recent generations of wood artists have enthusiastically embraced amazing tools that would have been unknown to Sam.

Though wood in its natural form is no more or less predictable today than in Sam's time, the contemporary makers' use of digital tools and manufactured products such as plywood may enable greater predictability than was ever possible when beginning with a solid block of wood.

In Sam's day, purists still debated whether the use of machines and even metal screws somehow diminished the woodworker's craft. Sam used screws—practical, necessary and out of view. By now, the purists' questions have mostly been answered, settled in favor of pragmatism, making a living and being judged by the results.

Today, 3D digital design models paired with numerical control cutting

bits in theory enable precision and repeatability. But the infinite variations of wood grain still permit only so much certainty. Artists must remain responsive to the interplay of materials, tools and processes, accommodating or exploiting surprises as they arise.

Of course, there is more to making than comes from tools alone. Every work begins with an idea—of form, function, spirit or statement. *California Wood Artists* presents works that express the loftiest of ideals, alongside everyday objects distinguished by their originality. What does a vessel or a wooden spoon have in common with a magnificent easel for a sacred text? All are works of integrity and imagination, artfully realized.

Opposite (clockwise from upper left): "PS3" by Jennifer Anderson; "Guitar Performance Chair" by Dennis Hays; "Blanket/Hope Chest" by Mike Johnson; "Visitation Bench" by Benjamin Saperstein.

Above (clockwise from upper left): "Sinuous Floor Lamp" by Marcus Papay; "Don Draper Redwood Chair" by Adam Vorrath; "Shape Studies—Congruent #1" by Erin Behling; "Dance in the Storm" by William Hunter.

Were Sam here to see for himself, he would certainly celebrate the makers and honor their skills and work. One hundred years since the birth of Sam Maloof, the future unfolds.

Featured Wood Artists

Jennifer Anderson
 Beston Barnett
 Erin Behling
 Gary Knox Bennett
 John Cederquist
 Twigg Chen
 Chance Coalter
 Reuben Foat
 Sophie Glenn
 Nathaniel Hall
 Dennis Hays
 Matthew Hebert
 Asa Hillis
 Barbara Holmes
 William Hunter
 Mike Johnson
 Christine Lee
 Adam Manley
 Laura Mays
 Austin McAdams
 Alison McLennan
 Alexis Moran
 Yvonne Mouser
 Brian Newell
 Christy Oates
 Scott Oliver
 Marcus Papay
 Jonathan Parris
 Steve Paulsen
 Ed Rizzardi
 Florian Roeper
 Benjamin Saperstein
 Kyle Sebree
 Adrien Segal
 Josh Smith
 Jim Sowers
 Jeremy Sullivan
 Brianna Trujillo
 Adam Vorrath

INNOVATION

Maloof Education

Targeting Teens in Our Local Schools



Maloof Teens guide activities for visiting students during Getty Multicultural Intern Day.

Guest artist D. Lester Williams talks with students about his work in *Sculpture in the Garden 2016* exhibition.

Maloof Education programs serve young people, adults, artists, veterans, woodworkers and others. In an era of reduced arts funding for public schools, the Maloof Foundation's work with local teens is especially important.

Led by museum educator Rich Deely, Maloof programs have received support in recent years from James Irvine Foundation, Rose Hills Foundation, BCM Foundation, the Windgate Foundation and the Ruth and Joseph C. Reed Foundation.

During the 2015–16 school year, Maloof Education has served more than 600 students in local public high schools.

Working in partnership with the Chaffey Joint Union High School District, Community Outreach Intern Priscilla Sifuentes has brought Maloof programs to high schools including Alta Loma, Chaffey, Colony, Los Osos and Rancho Cucamonga. District-wide, over two-thirds of school age students qualify for free or reduced price lunch programs, and Maloof art experiences are a welcome addition at many schools.

In-school sessions led by Sifuentes introduce students to the legacy of Sam

and Alfreda Maloof. Students learn of Sam's origins as the son of immigrants from the Middle East, including his earliest experiences with art and wood-working. Students are encouraged to explore their own creativity and talents, as well as art- and museum-related occupational opportunities that may be new to them.

One longtime middle school teacher praised the program, ranking it among her best overall field trip experiences in decades of teaching.

Interested students attend training sessions at The Maloof, which prepare them to serve as volunteer guides for student-to-student tours targeting middle school and high school students during field trips to the The Maloof.

Maloof Teens meet weekly to plan and prepare activities. The student volunteers also work behind the scenes, learning about museum practice. Teens may serve as student curators, gaining



experience in the selection and presentation of art, with projects including the writing, preparation and installation of gallery text and graphics.

During the spring, students curate submissions from local high school art programs in drawing, photography and ceramics for inclusion in a student art exhibition in the Pyramid Room gallery. Exhibitions are accompanied by receptions for the artists and their friends and families. Parents and grandparents often come away with new appreciation for the students' talents and opportunities in art and related fields.

In 2016, The Maloof revamped an existing tour program targeting high school woodworking classes. The reinvigorated program added artist presentations, a hands-on drafting project, woodshop visits and Maloof Teen-led tours of the Maloof Historic Home and Discovery Garden.

Collaboration is also key to the success of the program: The Maloof partnered with AMoCA, Pomona College Museum of Art, Williamson Gallery, and Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex in hosting Getty Multicultural Interns for a day of tours, team building



Above: Museum educator Rich Deely welcomes interns from neighboring institutions, part of Getty Multicultural Intern visit. Participants experienced tours, art-making and gallery investigations.

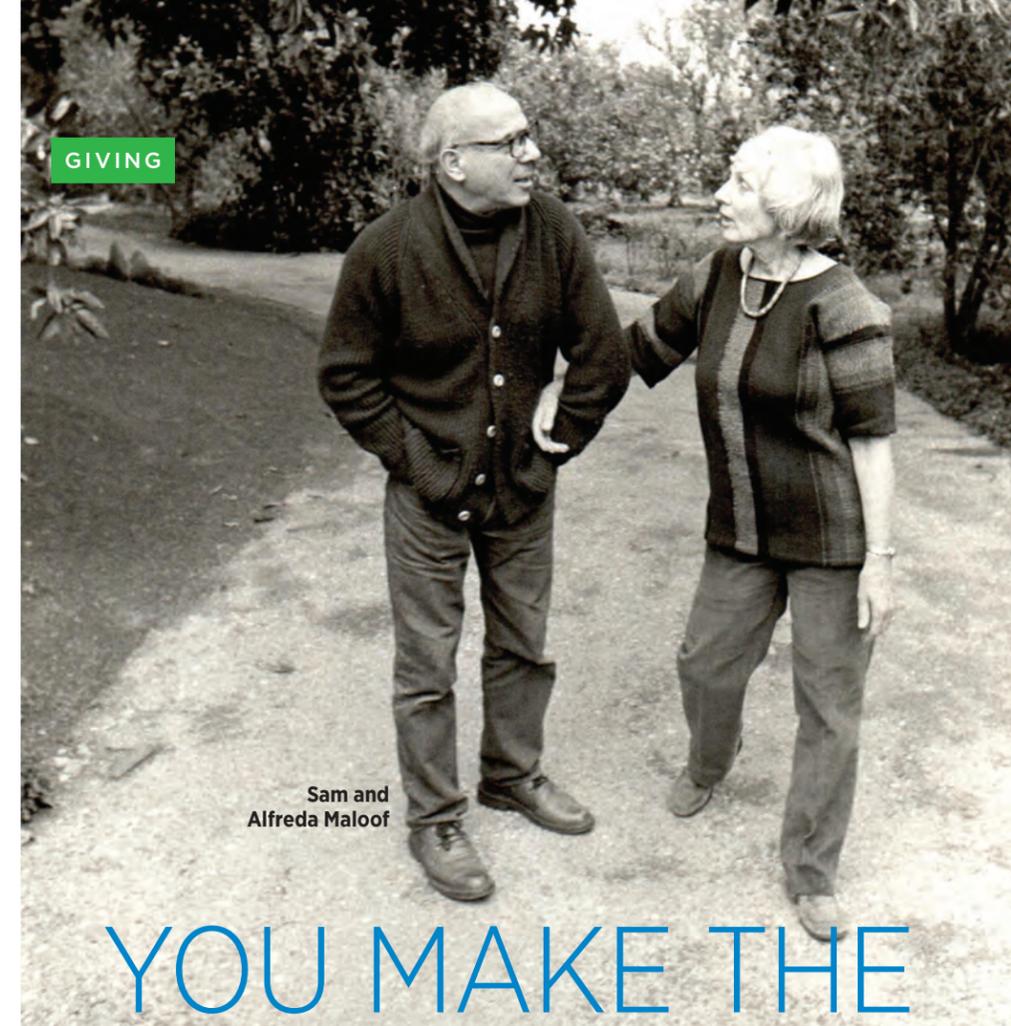
and a conversation with Guest Artist D. Lester Williams. In partnership with ARTReach, Maloof Teens welcomed middle and high school students on field trips from Pomona and Monrovia.

One longtime middle school teacher praised the program, ranking it among her best overall field trip experiences in decades of teaching. Bilingual Maloof Teens also left a good impression, translating the Maloof story into Spanish as needed to engage with non-English-speaking students.

Based on such successes, plans are in development to extend Maloof Education to reach younger students. In fall 2016, local elementary school teachers and administrators are collaborating with the Maloof team to explore possibilities and develop additional new strategies for the future.

Your support helps bring arts to the classroom and students to the arts! Make your gift now: malooffoundation.org.

GIVING



Sam and Alfreda Maloof

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Time to renew your membership?

Help carry forward the creativity, values and innovative spirit of Sam and Alfreda Maloof.

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GARDENING

Your tax-deductible support enables programs to advance woodworking, arts, and craft for children, students, artists, visitors, veterans, scholars and others now and for generations to come.

Please complete the reply envelope in the newsletter centerfold or make an online gift now at www.malooffoundation.org

The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt public benefit corporation.



Plan Your Visit

Public Hours:

Thursdays and Saturdays
12:00–4:00 p.m.

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CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

AN EXTRAORDINARY BEQUEST

The first rocking chair made by Sam Maloof has been generously bequeathed to The Maloof Foundation, guaranteeing its future in perpetuity. The extraordinary chair, made of East Indian rosewood, has been owned since 1963 by the recently deceased Dr. Michael Langan, a physician, and his now widow, Kay, of Greenwich, Connecticut.

The Langans first saw Maloof furniture in 1957 at a Museum of Contemporary Crafts exhibition in New York. During a trip to Los Angeles in the following year, Kay arranged to visit the Maloof workshop. That meeting marked the beginning of a long and loving relationship between the two families, and led to the Langans' acquisition of eleven Maloof pieces. Though discussed as early as 1959, the first Maloof rocker was not completed until late 1963.

Delivery of the chair marked the beginning of Sam's decades-long pursuit of rocking chair perfection. According to family members, the rocker also soon



became one of the Langan's most highly treasured belongings, one that holds many happy memories for the family's seven children, their spouses and twelve grandchildren. The family has asked that the donor of the chair to the Foundation be listed as the Dr. Michael Langan Family as a way of indicating the family's full approval.

Kay notes that it was not only Sam's furniture that was a force for good as the

Langan children were growing up. Sam himself, along with Alfreda, and then Beverly, also became role models.

"The major religions of the world discourage us from wasting our thoughts and energies on collecting things," says Kay. "We are supposed to rise above the physical and concentrate on the spiritual. But the question changes when the things in our lives are made not by machines run by computers, but by human beings who have invested so much of their own personalities and sensitivities into their work that the finished products speak clearly to us. We hope that Sam's first rocker may be studied and appreciated by students, scholars, collectors and others for generations to come. No matter how many years go by, we know that the chair will tell them what a great man and superb artist Sam was."

For information about Maloof Foundation estate planning, please contact the Executive Director's office at (909) 980-0412.

MalooF Foundation

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