

# Malooof

*A Newsletter for Friends of the Foundation*

MALOOF CENTENNIAL 2016

## Year of Celebration



The life and legacy of woodworker Sam Maloof (1916-2009) will be explored in a year-long celebration beginning January 2016 at the Maloof Foundation.

Centennial offerings include a new book, exhibitions, a symposium at the Smithsonian, and a busy calendar of tours, events, and public programming offered at The Maloof and other venues coast to coast.

The book, *Sam Maloof: 36 Views of a Master Woodworker* by Fred Setterberg, published by Heyday Books, will debut on January 24, 2016, the 100th anniversary of Sam's birth.

Based on interviews with dozens of Maloof friends, colleagues, clients and family members, the book explores the role of community in shaping an artist's work. It also features more than 50 photos reflecting various eras and themes in the life of the woodworker.

The Smithsonian symposium is scheduled for September 16, 2016 in Washington, D.C. The gathering will explore Maloof's role as a pioneer in the American studio craft movement. The event has been timed to coincide with a reinstallation of the American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery permanent collection, which includes Maloof works.

Other events slated for the centennial year include: A February 17 tour of The Maloof Historic Home and Workshop offered as part of Palm Springs Modernism Week; participation at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at



**President Jimmy Carter describes Sam Maloof as "the best woodworker that ever lived." The Carter rocker will be spotlighted in the upcoming Maloof Centennial exhibition.**

the University of Southern California on April 9 and 10; and the exhibition *California Wood Artists: Maloof and Beyond* opens October 2 at The Maloof. Maloof-related exhibitions are also slated for Riverside Art Museum, Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, and Modernism Museum, Mt.

Dora, Florida. Los Angeles International Airport will host an in-terminal installation beginning in July, featuring works by Maloof and contemporary Southern California woodworkers.

For dates and details of the still developing calendar, visit [malooofoundation.org](http://malooofoundation.org).



Smithsonian Affiliate

MALOOF CENTENNIAL 2016

# Sam Maloof Woodworker: Life | Art | Legacy



Alfreda Ward, 1946



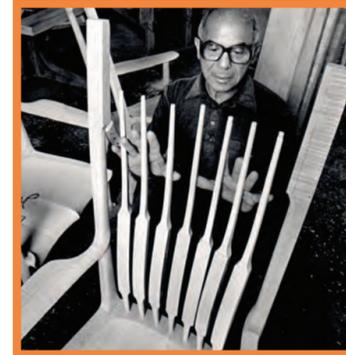
Sam was largely self-taught, with an appreciation for fine design and detailing.



Alfreda encouraged Sam to start his woodworking business, which she managed for half a century.



President Ronald Reagan receives Maloof rocker into the White House Collection.



Sam's handmade wooden chairs stood out in an era of change.



Sam and Alfreda lived and worked at the original site until her death in 1998.

The Maloof Centennial exhibition offers perspectives on Sam's journey from humble local origins to global acclaim.

A new exhibition, *Sam Maloof Woodworker: Life | Art | Legacy*, will open February 14 at The Maloof Foundation. Conceived as part of the year-long celebration of the Maloof Centennial, the exhibition will bring together more than 60 objects including examples of Maloof furniture, drawings, photographs, works of art, documents, video excerpts, ephemera and other items.

Although Maloof furniture has been displayed in dozens of exhibitions over the years at museum venues nationwide, no previous exhibition has been more ambitious in its efforts to chronicle Maloof's lifelong journey.

#### California Modernist Spirit

Sam Maloof was born in Chino, California to immigrant Lebanese parents. In childhood, he showed promise in art-making, and a paddle-shaped baker's board he created in woodshop for his mother at an early age is among the artifacts to be shown.

In the course of his career as a woodworker, which spanned more than half a century from 1949 till his passing in 2009 at age 93, Maloof produced more than 5,000 furniture works and was widely celebrated as the foremost American woodworker of his time.

In addition to displaying an array of furniture pieces, the exhibition will spotlight an iconic Maloof rocking chair made for President Jimmy Carter, who said of Sam, his longtime friend, "There wouldn't be more than five or six people in the world who have had a greater direct effect on my self analysis, my deliberate effort to learn something from them and apply it to my own life."

The Nobel Prize-winning former president, who is himself an avid woodworker, served as a Maloof Centennial advisor. The exhibition will also feature numerous works of art collected by Sam and Alfreda, including pieces by friends and colleagues such as Tony Abeyta, Laura Andreson, Paul Darrow, Phil Dike, Harrison McIntosh, Maria Martinez, Gertrud and Otto Natzler, Kay Sekimachi, Robert Stockdale, Millard Sheets, Paul Soldner, Marguerite Wildenhain and others. The art will be displayed alongside Maloof furniture, exploring ways in which the artists may have influenced one another.

Research for the exhibition mined the Maloof Archive, which contains tens of thousands of drawings, letters, invoices, contracts, and other documents. The exhibition will reference Sam's relationships with art and design notables such as Charles Eames and Henry Dreyfuss, and celebrity clients such as Gene Kelly, Irving Wallace, James Garner and others.

The woodworker's institutional commissions will also be highlighted. Maloof designed furniture for Los Angeles mid-century gems including Covenant Presbyterian Church (1963) and Leo Baeck Temple (1963), both of which helped establish the woodworker's reputation for ecclesiastical work. The exhibition will present original scale models along with photographs of the finished works *in situ*.

#### Legacy Preserved

Visitors will learn about the extraordinary work undertaken to save the Maloof's handmade home from the path of the 210 Freeway. The relocation project, which moved the house in pieces three miles up the hill from its original site, is considered an outstanding example of historic preservation of a mid-20th Century treasure.

The Maloof Historic Home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and part of the National Trust's Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program. The Maloof is also a Smithsonian Affiliate.

The exhibition has been in development for almost three years and draws on the diverse perspectives of an experienced curatorial team. Key advisor for the project is Catherine Gudis, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Public History Program at University of California, Riverside. Maloof board member John Scott, who has previously curated seven exhibitions at The Maloof, has worked closely with exhibition designers John Fleeman and Sam Mellon to bring Sam's story to life.

Other advisors include: Maloof Foundation resident artist and woodworker Larry White, who worked alongside Sam for decades and provided first-hand information about Sam's evolution as an artist and collector; Carolyn Owen-Towle, whose father, Millard Sheets, was one of Sam's earliest employers; and Sam's widow, Beverly Wingate Maloof. Research and interviews with a wide range of individuals who knew Sam at various times in his life added many new details.

#### Other Exhibitions

*Sam Maloof Woodworker* will run February 14 through August 31 in The Maloof Foundation's Jacobs Education Center gallery. Plans are also underway to tour the exhibition, including a stop at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. A Smithsonian Affiliate, the AANM acquired a Maloof chair as the first object in its permanent collection.

Centennial year events at The Maloof also include two other exhibitions: the third biennial *Sculpture in the Garden 2016* exhibition, opening May 1; and *California Wood Artists: Maloof and Beyond*, opening October 2 and running through mid-February 2017.

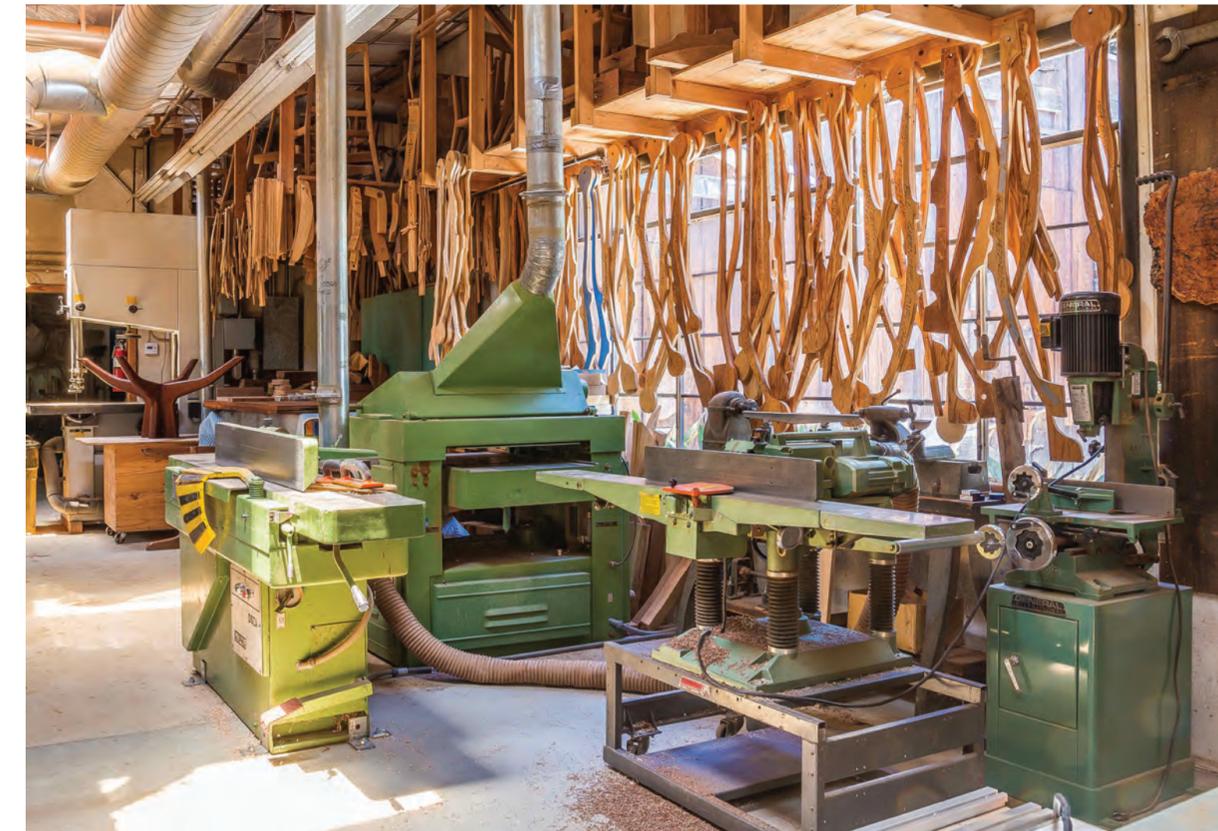
Centennial year programming is made possible in part with a grant from the Windgate Foundation of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The City of Rancho Cucamonga is a Maloof Centennial partner.

For details on the full calendar of exhibitions, please visit [malooffoundation.org](http://malooffoundation.org).



▼ The woodworking shop looks much as it did in Sam's time, and Maloof designs are still being produced.

▲ Sam was still experimenting into his 90's. One of his last works, a recliner-rocker from 2009, is spotlighted in the centennial exhibition.



# Maloof Century: An Artist's Journey

Good lives are crafted from chances taken and choices made. Here are a few themes that helped shape Sam's extraordinary life.

## 1 Seeking Better

Sam's parents left Lebanon in difficult times and came to America as immigrants in search of a better life. Sam's 1916 birth in Chino, California was celebrated with mariachi music and a Middle Eastern feast.

## 2 Following a Passion

Sam showed an early interest in art, drawing pictures and making simple toys out of wood. In high school, he won a poster design contest judged by artist Millard Sheets, who was impressed by the young artist's talents.

## 3 Serving Proudly

During World War II Sam served in Alaska, where his duties included drawing gun emplacements.

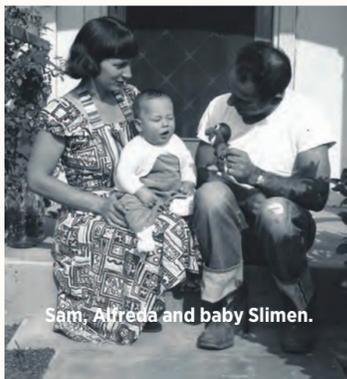


## 4 Finding a Path

After World War II, Sam returned home to the Inland Empire. There he met a fellow veteran, Alfreda Ward, who was in graduate school studying art at Claremont University College (later named Claremont Graduate University). They married in 1948.

## 5 Starting a Family

After son Sammy was born, Alfreda encouraged Sam to start a woodworking business. Largely self-taught, Sam designed simply at first, with little hint of the extraordinary creations that would later distinguish his work.



Sam, Alfreda and baby Slimen.

## 6 Embracing Community

Sam found support and inspiration among friends in Claremont's thriving artist community. Alfreda also introduced Sam to Native American artists and friends she had met while teaching in New Mexico.

## 7 Seizing Opportunities

In 1951, *Better Homes and Gardens* featured Sam's plans for how to build a coffee table. Such coverage introduced Sam to Henry Dreyfuss, one of the era's leading industrial designers, who commissioned Sam to build furniture for a new home in South Pasadena.

## 8 Building a Home

With money borrowed from friends, Sam and Alfreda bought a small lemon grove property in Alta Loma, where they moved in 1953. What began as a modest, hand-built wooden home grew in time to embody California's colorful, mid-century aesthetic and lifestyle.



## 9 Expanding Horizons

At the First National Conference of American Craftsmen in Asilomar, California, Sam met artists like himself from across the nation. The gathering spotlighted America's emerging studio craft movement and introduced Sam to a widening circle of influential peers.

## 10 Earning Acclaim

Leading art museums began acquiring his work and Sam led workshops throughout the US and internationally. His students included President Jimmy Carter, who became a good friend.



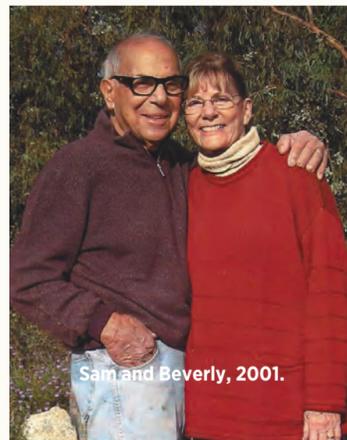
<p><b>1916</b> Born in Chino, CA</p>	<p><b>1927</b> At age 11, Sam built a wooden baker's board, which his mother kept for her lifetime.</p>	<p><b>1934</b> Wins high school poster design contest</p>	<p><b>1941</b> Joins US Army</p>	<p><b>1946</b> Assists in Millard Sheets' art studio</p>	<p><b>1948</b> Marries Alfreda Ward</p>	<p><b>1949</b> Son Sammy is born; Sam founds workshop.</p>	<p><b>1951</b> First national magazine coverage. Henry Dreyfuss commissions Sam.</p>	<p><b>1954</b> Begins building home in Alta Loma</p>	<p><b>1958</b> Daughter Marylou joins the family through adoption</p>	<p><b>1960</b> American Craft Museum in New York acquires work</p>	<p><b>1963</b> Sam delivers first Maloof rocking chair to Langan Family in Connecticut</p>	<p><b>1975</b> Inducted into American Craft Council of Fellows</p>	<p><b>1976</b> Maloof furniture featured at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston</p>	<p><b>1981</b> President Ronald Reagan receives Maloof rocker at The White House</p>	<p><b>1983</b> Autobiography <i>Sam Maloof: Woodworker</i> published</p>	<p><b>1984</b> Rancho Cucamonga City Council declares Maloof a National Treasure</p>	<p><b>1985</b> MacArthur Foundation Fellowship awarded</p>	<p><b>1987</b> Maloof work acquired by Los Angeles County Museum of Art</p>	<p><b>1988</b> Maloof work acquired by Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York</p>	<p><b>1992</b> Maloof work acquired by Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery</p>	<p><b>1994</b> Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts established</p>	<p><b>1998</b> Death of Alfreda Ward Maloof</p>	<p><b>2001</b> Maloof residence and workshop relocated</p>	<p><b>2002</b> Relocated Maloof residence opens to public</p>	<p><b>2005</b> Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, acquires Maloof chair</p>	<p><b>2009</b> Death of Sam Maloof</p>	<p><b>2013</b> <i>The House that Sam Built</i> exhibition at Huntington Library and Gardens, part of Getty PST project.</p>	<p><b>2014</b> Maloof Foundation named Smithsonian Affiliate</p>	<p><b>2016</b> Maloof Centennial</p>
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## 1 1 Welcoming Visitors

Even before Sam's house was relocated, the Maloof home welcomed thousands of visitors a year. Now listed in the National Register of Historic Places, The Maloof welcomes thousands more annually from around the world.

## 1 2 Leaving a Legacy

The Maloofs gave generously to causes they cared about and bequeathed their extraordinary art collection for public benefit in perpetuity. Sam established scholarships at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Colorado—including one for women woodworkers.



Sam and Beverly, 2001.

## 1 3 Enjoying the Journey

Sam worked almost daily in his workshop until he was 92 years old, designing and building some 5,000 pieces during his career. His energy for innovation offers inspiration for all who aspire to live well and long, and leave the world a better place. Thank you, Sam!



## Maloof Centennial 2016 Planning Calendar

### January

**Sun., Jan. 24** 100th anniversary of Sam Maloof's birth.

### February

**Sun., Feb. 14** Opening day for *Sam Maloof Woodworker: Life/Art/Legacy*. Public welcome, through Aug. 31.

### March

**Sat., Mar. 26** *Woodworker's Dream* tour. Reservations required.

### April

**Apr. 1-30** National Garden Month

**Sat., Apr. 9-Sun., Apr. 10** Sam Maloof book at L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC

**Sun., Apr. 10** Members-only Brunch Maloof Courtyard, 11 am. \$38/person. Reservations required.

**Sat., Apr. 30** *Water Savvy Garden* tour

### May

**Sun., May 1** *Sculpture in the Garden* exhibition opens. Runs through Oct. 29.

### June

**Mon., June 13-Fri., June 24** "The Maloof Experience: Beyond the Bench" workshop led by Larry White, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO.

### July

**Sat., Jul. 9** *Woodworker's Dream* tour. Reservations required.

### August

**Sat., Aug. 6** *Moving Sam* historic preservation tour led by architect Ann Kovara. Reservations required.

### September

**Fri., Sep. 16** Maloof Symposium at Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Washington DC.

### October

**Sun., Oct. 2** *California Wood Artists: Maloof and Beyond* exhibition opens, through Feb 12, 2017

**Oct. 7-9** Maloof Veterans Workshop

**Sat., Oct. 29** *Woodworker's Dream* tour.

### November

**Sat., Nov. 26-Sun., Nov. 27** Maloof Mexican Folk Art Weekend.

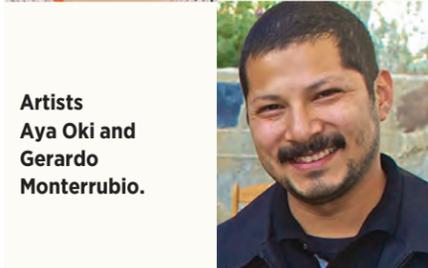
### December

**Sat., Dec. 10-Sun., Dec. 11** *Holidays at The Maloof*. St. Nick and holiday-themed open house tours. Tickets online.

Additional programming is in development and dates are subject to change.

For details throughout the year, please check updated online calendar at [www.malooffoundation.org](http://www.malooffoundation.org)

Now Available  
**Exhibition  
 Catalog**



**Artists  
 Aya Oki and  
 Gerardo  
 Monterrubio.**

A 140-page catalog documenting the recently concluded *California Handmade: State of the Arts* exhibition, is now available.

The softcover book features beautiful, full-color photographs of works by 84 artists with details and interpretive text by curator Emily Zaiden.

The project reflects The Maloof Foundation's mission to educate audiences, while supporting and nurturing artists engaged in the creation of contemporary handmade fine art.

The catalog offers a permanent record of the featured works, providing curators, collectors, artists and others with ready reference to the themes and works represented in the exhibition.

The catalog is published by Craft in America in partnership with The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts. The project was made possible by benefactors Dr. and Mrs. Joe Unis and John Scott.

The catalog was launched at an artist reception held last month at The Maloof, and is now on sale at the Maloof Store, and online at [malooffoundation.org](http://malooffoundation.org).

# You make the *difference*

**More than a celebration of the past, the Maloof Centennial is also a moment to look forward, and to consider ways in which Sam's creativity, values, and innovative spirit may now also offer inspiration for the future.**

## Education

Maloof Education programs serve young people, adults, artists, veterans, woodworkers and others. In-school, on-site, and hands-on learning experiences invite participants to explore Sam's legacy, through tours, woodworking, art-making and environmentally responsible, drought-tolerant gardening. The centennial year invites your awareness, participation and philanthropic support for education programs, scholarships, outreach and more.

## Art and Conservation

A cultural treasure threatened by plans for a highway project, the handcrafted Maloof home and workshop were saved and relocated to their present site, and an endowment was established to conserve them in perpetuity. With the centennial comes an opportunity to imagine The Maloof's historic structures, art collection, and gardens in relation to present and future needs, and to plan enhancements needed to accommodate new generations of artists, craftspeople, students and visitors.

## Sustainability

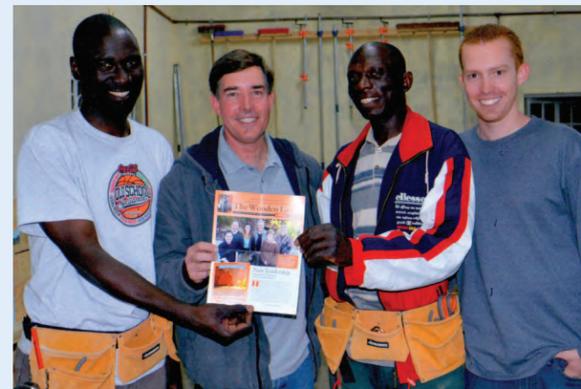
Public institutions at local, state, and national levels have collaborated with volunteers, members, foundations and private philanthropy to assure a future for The Maloof. Our centennial year provides a moment to recognize this support, while inviting renewed participation from stakeholders in order to define, build and sustain an enduring vision for the future.

## We invite your support

Memberships, sponsorships, gifts, grants and endowments during the Maloof Centennial are all essential to our pursuit of tomorrow.

Please use the reply envelope included with the newsletter to make your tax-deductible gift.

For more information, visit [malooffoundation.org](http://malooffoundation.org)



**Clockwise from top left:  
 Maloof Education provides in-school programs at area high schools.**

**Larry White leads workshop with hands-on demo of Maloof techniques.**

**Maloof Veterans Workshop encourages exploration of woodworking in recovery from PTSD.**

**Exhibitions and gallery talks provide students with opportunities to learn about art and art-making.**

**Maloof Discovery Garden models drought-tolerant, water-wise landscaping.**

**Special events welcome visitors to music on the courtyard and other public programs.**

**Volunteer docents lead public tours of the Maloof home, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**

**Maloof Woodworker master craftsman Mike Johnson (second from left) helps establish a vocational woodworking program in Africa.**



## Plan Your Visit

### Public Hours:

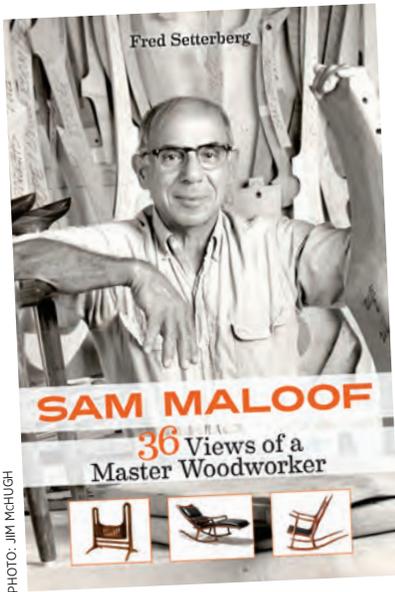
Thursdays and Saturdays  
12:00–4:00 p.m.

5131 Carnelian St.  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701  
(909) 980-0412  
malooffoundation.org  
North of I-210, Carnelian Exit

Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts  
P.O. Box 8397  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701  
(909) 980-0412

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Rancho Cucamonga, CA

# NEW BOOK: SHARE THE STORY



*Sam Maloof: 36 Views of a Master Woodworker* by Fred Setterberg and published by Heyday Books in partnership with The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation has won advance praise from craft, art and woodworking scholars and advocates:

“Rewarding not just for those who knew Maloof and his work, but for anyone who places value in a life devoted to skill and artistry.”

**Glenn Adamson**, *Director*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York

“As snapshots of a life devoted to craft, this book should be a touchstone for any would-be craftsman...It is a rare treat to read such intimate portraits of one of the great craftsmen of our time.”

**Nora Atkinson**, *Lloyd Herman Curator of Craft*, Renwick Gallery Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC

“This engaging portrait of the preeminent woodworker of the twentieth-century studio craft movement...poignantly animates a vanishing moment in the cultural history of California (and the nation at large).”

**Peter Korn**, *Executive Director*, Center for Furniture Craftmanship Rockport, Maine.

“I’ve always taken Maloof’s audacity of form as permission to ‘misbehave handsomely.’ This collection confirms my suspicions.”

**Nick Offerman**, Actor, author, owner of Offerman Woodshop

The book will be on sale exclusively at the Maloof Store, both on-site and online, for one month starting January 24, before it becomes available via other booksellers, including Amazon and bookstores nationwide.

## Maloof Foundation

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