



SAM AND ALFREDA MALOOF
FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Wooden Latch

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION



SUMMER 2007

An illustrious panel of five opened the conference discussion to a full audience; pictured left to right; Glenn Adamson, Sam Maloof, Jonathan Fairbanks, Arline Fisch and Garry Knox Bennett.



Education Center Opens!

Huge turnout for the 3-day conference hosted by the Getty Center and Maloof Foundation

On May 31, the new education building at the Foundation hosted its first program, the opening day of *Craft at the Limits*, a three-day conference in partnership with the Getty Research Institute. The conference brought together nationally and internationally known artists, craft scholars and those passionate about crafts. The program included panel discussions by noted craftspeople, tours of the historic Maloof house, workshops and gardens and a chance for participants to visit with one another and enjoy a Mexican lunch. The day before the conference Sam and Beverly hosted a private gathering

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One of four gallery spaces in the new Education Center was decorated with an array of Sam's furniture and many post-WWII artists' paintings from his private collection.

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It was standing-room only in the newly finished Education Center as the conference got underway.



Craft Museum that had helped in promoting his work. In response to a question about how to find information on Objects USA and other historical information about the craft movement, Bennett directed the questionnaire to the archives of the American Craft Council, the American Art Museum and the Archives of American Art.

California Design 1962-1972

When asked who has influenced California craft, Sam Maloof will invariably mention the name Eudorah Moore. "She was responsible for it all. She made it happen," he has said. In the early 1960s, Eudorah

Moore began volunteering with the Pasadena Museum of Art (now the Norton Simon Museum) during a time when the museum was experiencing a series of staff and fiscal crises. Moore joined the staff and suggested an exhibition on California craft and design. The idea was not met with kindness. "There was a lot of opposition from the museum staff." In the art world "California" and "design" were considered oxymorons. Moore knew better and struggled ahead with *California Design: 1910*, and the whole process got easier when Norton Simon stepped in to become more involved in the museum.

The first contemporary California Design show premiered in 1962 and the exhibitions at the

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Glenn Adamson



Jonathan Fairbanks



Arline Fisch



Sam Maloof



Garry Knox Bennett

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of craftspeople who participated in seminal workshops held in the late 1950s and 1960s. These post-WWII conferences were the beginning of the American Craft Council and the studio craft movement in the United States.

Glenn Adamson led a wide-ranging discussion with the featured craftspeople about their work, how they approach their craft and what events helped promote their careers.

Sam Maloof talked about working in collaboration with the three craftsmen who help him construct his furniture. Although Sam designs and cuts all the pieces, all four men pass the pieces back and forth during the finish work. All three of his helpers have each been with him for more than twenty years.

Arline Fisch has worked by herself since 1973 in her studio in San Diego surrounded by mannequins who are quiet "but wear things nicely", so she never feels alone. Fisch also provided an international view of American studio craft from the perspectives of the Fulbright grants she received to work in Copenhagen, Denmark. She felt that America was part of an international studio craft movement. Before Objects USA, a traveling exhibition of American craft, studio craft in the United States was unknown in Europe. The California Design Shows produced at the Pasadena Museum of Art (now the Norton Simon Museum) were also influential because they linked craft and design, something of particular interest to craftspeople in the 1970s.

Garry Knox Bennett discussed shows at the American

Morning Panel

Glenn Adamson, Ph.D was the moderator for the morning panel. Adamson is the Head of Graduate Studies in the Research Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England.

Jonathan Fairbanks was the Curator of American Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston from 1971-1999. He co-authored with Elizabeth Bidwell Bates the authoritative *American Furniture: 1620 to the Present* and wrote the introduction for *Sam Maloof, Woodworker*.

Arline Fisch is known internationally for her intricate jewelry designs. She pioneered the technique now known as metal knitting (an example of her work is in the background of the panelist photo on page one). Her designs have been "recognized as significant for the development of twentieth century American craft."

Sam Maloof's name is synonymous with commitment to fine craftsmanship. In 1985, he was the first craftsman honored with the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship and as a "Living Treasure of California".

Garry Knox Bennett challenges the definitions of furniture and sculpture with his exuberant designs. His furniture is in the permanent collection of major museums such as the American Art Museum at the Smithsonian Institution.



Carol Sauvion... “wanted to find a way to bring the vibrancy of American craft to the largest audience possible.”

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Pasadena Museum of Art became “a triennial, highly selective, juried showing of articles for domestic use, designed and/or manufactured in California – within the last three years”, Moore wrote in the 1968 exhibition catalogue. The objects were evenly divided between those manufactured and those handcrafted. In 1968 more than two hundred and fifty objects were selected from over 1100 submissions. The later exhibitions traveled to other venues in the state, showcasing the variety, sophistication and fine craftsmanship of California design, jump-starting many careers in both

design and craft and changing the perception of California arts and crafts permanently.

Craft in America

In 1996 Carol Sauvion decided she wanted to help promote the vitality of the craft movement in the United States that to her seemed “beset by advertising and video games”. As a potter, she understood the hard work of making a life in craft and wanted to find a way to bring the vibrancy of American craft to the largest audience possible.

Her solution was to create a television series. Eleven years later, a three-part series *Craft at the Limits* aired the evening of May 30th on ninety-six percent of PBS stations nationwide.

In preparation for the series, Sauvion traveled cross-country and gathered material. She visited the homes and studios of weavers, ceramists, woodworkers, basket makers and ironsmiths, shooting all three films simultaneously with three different directors. Each film was centered around a theme of Memory, Community or

Landscape. Along the way the project became not only a series of films, but a book, an exhibition, and a website with educational material for teachers. The day after its premiere Sauvion was part of the afternoon panel where she talked about the process of making the films, from convening a symposium of craft experts to selecting objects for the exhibition currently touring the country.

Sauvion is now in the process of planning three more films. For more information about Craft in America visit www.craftinamerica.org.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Maloof Foundation is to recognize and celebrate fine artists and craftsmen who skillfully create timeless treasures with their hands.



Hal Nelson



Eudora Moore



Carol Sauvion

Afternoon Panel

Hal Nelson was moderator for the afternoon panel. He was the Director of the Long Beach Museum of Art from 1986-2006 where he championed the showcasing of the decorative arts.

Eudora Moore Eudora Moore has been an advocate for American craft for more than forty-five years beginning at the Pasadena Museum of Art where she organized the first of a series of California Designs shows from 1962-1972 that brought California design to a larger audience. Her books include *California Design 1910* and *California Design: The Legacy of West Coast Craft and Style*. She was formerly Craft Administrator for the National Endowment for the Arts and the International Furnishings and Design Association has recognized her with its Trailblazer Award. She is also a “Living Treasure of California.”

Carol Sauvion Carol Sauvion is the creator and co-executive producer of the multi-media project *Craft in America*, a multi-media survey of the wealth of craftsmanship across the United States broadcast as a three-part series on PBS. Educated as an art historian and an accomplished potter, Sauvion is the owner of the Freehand Gallery in Los Angeles where she has showcased the finest in American craftsmanship. (She has also served as a juror at the Smithsonian Craft Show).

Dr. Maloof



photo courtesy of CSUSB

Sam Maloof receiving his honorary doctorate from CSUSB President Albert K. Karnig and Louis Fernandez, Provost, Academic Affairs.

Spring commencements brought Sam two more honorary degrees. At graduation ceremonies on June 16, CSUSB President Albert K. Karnig, and William Aguilar, VP for Advancement (and devoted woodworker) announced the awarding of an honorary

doctorate, which Sam received when he gave the commencement address to the graduates.

Mount San Antonio College also honored Sam this year with an Honorary Associate in Arts degree when he gave the keynote speech.



The reunion was hosted by Sam and Beverly Maloof. Pictured in the Maloof's living room are (left to right); Carolyn Sheets Owen-Towle, Forest Merrill, Garry Knox Bennett, Maurice Grossman, Jonathan Fairbanks, Rosanne Malouf, Martha Longenecker, Joe Unis (Maloof Foundation President), Kevin Williams, Kay Sekimachi, Merry Renk, Ferne Jacobs, Harrison McIntosh, Imogene Gieling.

Early American Craft Council conference attendees meet again

50's and 60's conferences included Asilomar, Lake Geneva, World Craft Congress of Craftsmen and Objects USA Exposition

Between June 1957 and June 1964, the newly created American Craftsmen's Council, the forerunner to the American Craft Council, sponsored a series of conferences devoted to craft. The first conference was held at Asilomar, California and brought together craftspeople from throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Japan and Afghanistan to discuss issues important to those wishing to make a career in craft. Over three days, there were forums on the themes of the socio-economic outlook for craft, design and its importance and relationship to techniques and professional practices including a small business forum. Attending that first conference were craftspeople who would become American icons including among many others: Annie Albers, Charles Eames, Wharton Esherick, Vivika Heino, John Kapel, Jack Lenor Larsen, Sam Maloof, Millard Sheets, Bob Stocksdale, Toshiko Takaezu and Walker Weed. The conferences



Sheila Hicks and Don Drumm reminisce at the reunion.

Attending that first conference were craftspeople who would become American icons...

culminated in the 1st World Congress of Craftsmen in 1964 and provided the forum for craftspeople to establish the groundwork for what became the American studio craft movement.

On May 30, Sam and Beverly Maloof hosted a reunion of people who attended these conferences and were involved in the landmark exhibition Objects USA. Thirty-eight craftspeople and their guests assembled for a day of fellowship and an informal dinner where they caught up with each other's lives and exchanged stories of a shared past before the opening day of the *Craft at the Limits* conference.



Seated in the living room at top are (left to right); Jim Hubbell, June Schwartz, Ann Hubbell, Andrew Wagner, American Craft Council, Editor and Chief, Sam, Frank Laury, Stan Bitters and Jean Ray Laury.



Enjoying the view from the Maloof's deck are Carolyn Sheets, Stan Bitters and Maurice Grossman.

Distinguished Advisory Board

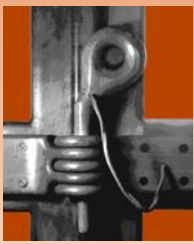
The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts is deeply honored that the following individuals serve on its special Advisory Board:

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- Edward S. Cooke, Jr.**, *Professor, Department of the History of Art, Yale University*
- Jonathan Fairbanks**, *Editor-at-Large, The Catalogue of Antiques and Fine Arts*
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- Barry Morgan**, *Chairman of the Board, Worcester Center for Crafts*
- Jacques Yeager**, *Senior Partner, Yeager Brothers*

Docent Corner

During the first six months of 2007, the volunteers at the Maloof Foundation, including garden, museum and bookstore docents, served for nearly 3,000 hours. The gardens have been expanded and landscaped as result of a great deal of hard work by many volunteers. The hours donated by museum and bookstore docents in '07, have resulted in more than 700 custom tour participants and nearly 1,400 public tour participants.

Some of our tour visitors have returned evaluations of their experience at the Maloof Foundation. Among comments received were "your docents are the best I have encountered in many years of museum visitations," and, "my experience at the Maloof Foundation was one that I will remember for many years."



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SAM AND ALFREDA MALOOF
FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS

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Organization
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P.O. Box 8397
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Historic Residence Tours

Regular Public Tours:
Thursdays & Saturdays
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
\$10 per person
Seniors \$8; Students \$5
No one under 14 permitted

Special Group Tours:
By appointment

Maloof Garden Hours:
Thursdays & Saturdays
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The residence is located at 5131 Carnelian Street in Alta Loma, 2 miles north of the 210 (Foothill) Freeway and 8 miles north of the 10 (San Bernardino) Freeway.

For information and reservations please call (909) 980-0412 or e-mail us at info@malooffoundation.org

Foundation Board of Directors

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Calendar...

Painting in the Garden

Second Thursday and Saturday Afternoons

Artists may paint in our beautiful gardens the second Thursday and Saturday of each month from 12:00 noon to 3:30 p.m. Individual artists or artist groups may call (909)980-0412 to reserve space.

Nov., 24 & 25

A weekend of sales and demonstrations by artisans from Tónala, Mata Ortiz and Oaxaca. Call 909-980-0412 for reservations.

Mexican Artisans

Mingei Museum

October 20 – Jan., 27, 2008

Craft in America – a journey to the origins, artists and techniques of American craft at the Mingei International Craft Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA



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