



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

Volume 37, Issue 6

June 2017

Sculptor / Turner

Our meeting this month, on Tuesday, June 6, at 7pm, will feature a presentation by Mark Knize, a sculptor who works in wood, metal, concrete, and stone, and is also an accomplished woodturner. These days he is adding more representational images to his body of work including people and animals, a consequence of serious study of figure drawing. In his own words:

“I enjoy trying to achieve the perfect form, creating objects that engage the viewer. I see my work functioning as a key visual point within a space, inviting a look and a touch.”

Lately he has been doing more production work, and will show some of the time-saving methods he's using and share the things he's learned about production.

Guests are welcome.

- Judi Garland



Directions:

The June 6 meeting will be held in a new venue:

180 Studios, 150 Todd Road, Santa Rosa

180 Studios is located just off Highway 101 at the southwest corner of the Todd Road exit.

This is a non-profit maker-space with a wide range of tools and machinery, including woodworking, welding, machining, CNC, 3D printing - virtually anything you need to be a maker. Come early and see what the future has in store.





A Note from the Chairman

Thomas Vogel

Good news everyone: we have found a well-qualified candidate for the empty Program Director position, Chuck Root. We do need you to come to our June 6th meeting to make it official with a quorum vote, and to just plain welcome Chuck on to the board.

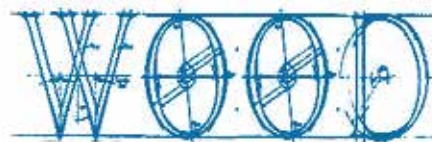
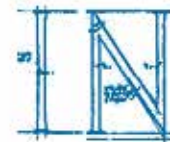
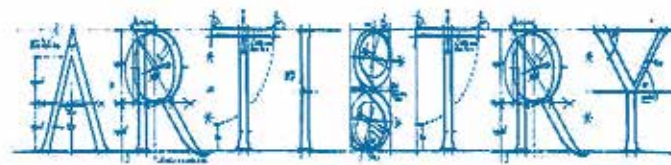
We have a new meeting space at 180 Studios in Santa Rosa, a non profit maker space that, while still in it's infancy, looks to me like it will be a hub of learning, making, and community. I'll bet that spending some time volunteering there would be quite rewarding.

Mark Knize, while I'm sure he is completely up to the task, is in some seriously tough company with the level of presentations we have had this year. I know I am repeating myself, but I just get so much enjoyment from listening to an expert discuss their field - this is why a Program Director is so important.

I must thank Mark Tindley for that engrossing lecture on furniture making. I came with high expectations and was not disappointed. I think he has book in there.

Om Anand's odyssey was inspiring and thought provoking. I'm still turning his "chaos / harmony / boring" theory over in my head. I love new ideas. Tremendous thanks to Om for that wonderful presentation.

Please come to our June 6th meeting. I'll bet Mark Knize will not disappoint.



Devotional Mantle by Joshua Smith

*What are you
working on?*



Oak Vessel by John Cobb

Photos by Tyler Chartier

SCWA Monthly Meeting

May 2, 2017

by Joe Scannell

This month's meeting again began right on time, and after welcoming two new members and a guest, Chairman Tom Vogel again appealed to the membership for someone to fill the Program Chair. As the months slip by, the void is becoming more alarming. We are using up the nice cushion left by Art Hofmann when he retired, and no arrangements have been made for the coming year. In general, it is necessary to reserve a speaker for each monthly meeting several months in advance. This is not being done presently. Tom also mentioned that we were looking for a place to hold our December Holiday Party. Don Naples, in the audience, again very graciously offered his home for the afternoon. Those who were at last year's party will remember the hospitality extended by Don and his wife Janet in their lovely Healdsburg home.

Finishing up with a few announcements, including a reminder that the next meeting will be held at 180 Studios in Santa Rosa, Tom introduced the evening's speaker, Om Anand.

In order to speak to us about developing one's own woodworking style, Om said that he really did not have

an answer for everyone; he could only speak about what has worked for him. And because style cannot exist outside of context, he began with a brief journey through his own working life. Dropping out of college in 1971, he began working as a carpenter's helper.

In 1978 he arrived in California, met his meditation teacher, and continued in the construction trade. He was married in 1983 to a wonderful woman, Tripura. Later that year he was given a book, *Add a Japanese Touch to your Home*, and a copy of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. These two gifts opened for him a whole



Om Anand

Photo by Jose Cuervo

new universe. In 1986 he enrolled in the College of the Redwoods woodworking program.

He studied under James Krenov, who at the time was in his mid-sixties. Om found him inspiring to be around, believing that many of the great artists have done their best work in their seventies. (This was taken as good news by the audience).

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Mary Holmes

In 1990, Om opened his shop, shared with another COR student and a ukelele maker, and he still calls it his inner sanctum. Life was good, until 2009 when he was run down by a drunk driver, suffering broken ribs and a traumatic brain injury. After that, he questioned whether he would be able to work again. It was a long road back, and he still has occasional cognitive lapses, but he is working and being creative.

Also that year, a group of ten Santa Cruz woodworkers joined together as a marketing tool, and in 2011 they put on a show at the local museum. Om produced some speculative pieces for the show, which he rarely does. In 2015 he participated in Open Studios, a large event involving many hundreds of artists.

Om is heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 1800's. Beauty, quality, and fitness for purpose resonated for him. In a reaction to

the heavily decorated Victorian period, the Arts and Crafts advocates sought to pare designs down to the basic structure. Detail was part of the structure.

Mary Holmes was an artist and teacher at UC Santa Cruz. Om met her when she was in her eighties, and she was a powerful influence on him. Her philosophy was that anything made by a human is art. So the question becomes not "Is it art?" but "Is it any good?" But instead of viewing it as good or bad, Om suggests we categorize things as boring, harmonic, or chaotic. With this

in mind, he began showing a series of photos of doors, beginning with a boring door. He asks "What does this door do for me?" Another door was seen in a different context, and so it was more harmonic.

He went on to show a piece of Korean casework, then an Alan Peters table from the '70s with some

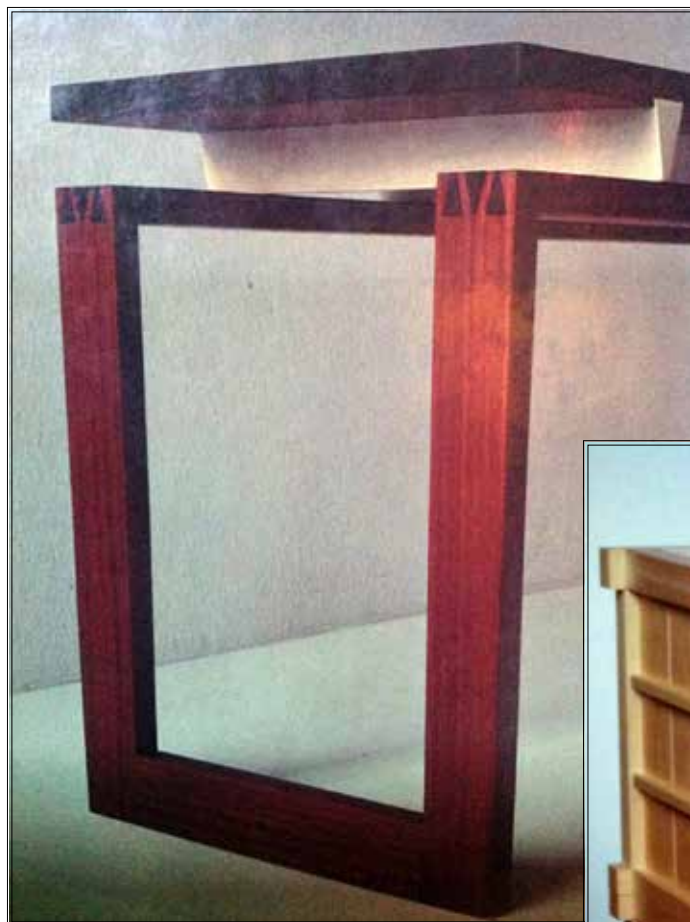


Table by Alan Peters

interesting twisted dovetails which were derived from Korean cabinetwork. Peters wrote the book, *The Practical Cabinetmaker*, which Om recommends.

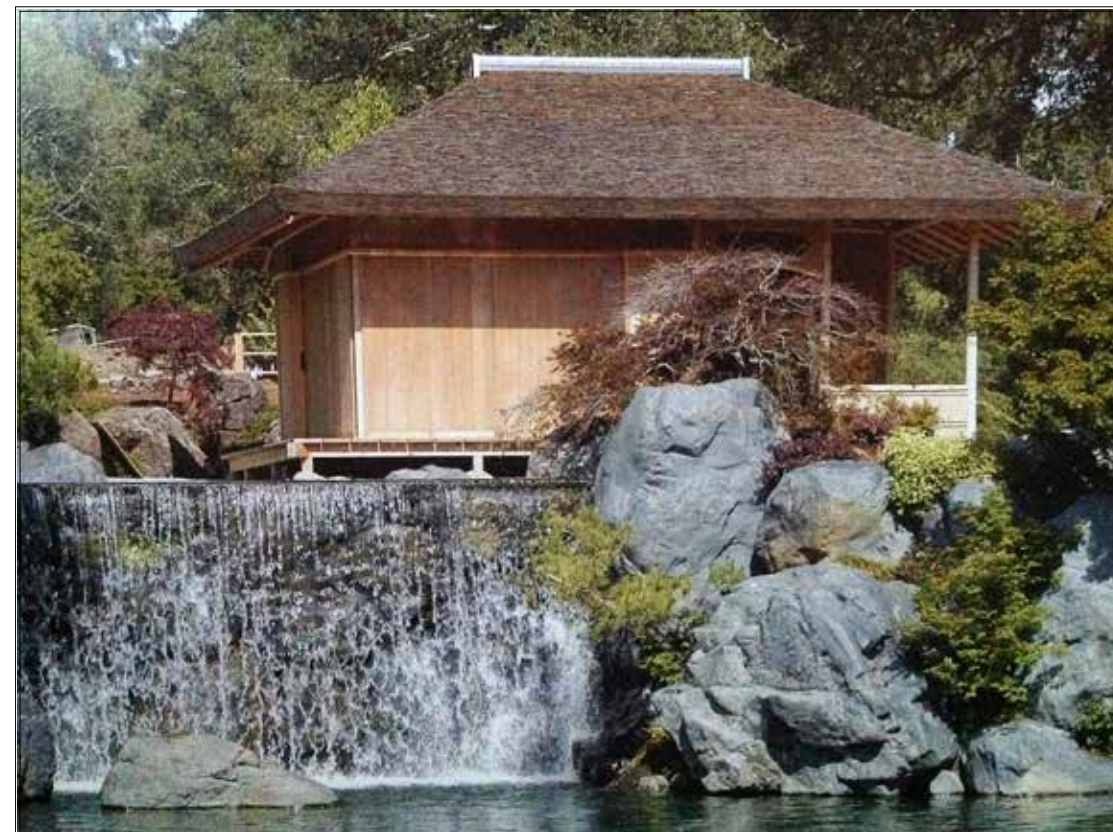
Om related the difficulties he once had with a client and her decorator, who seemed to each have a different idea of what they wanted. A lot of disagreement ensued, but the final result was lovely, as seen at right. The door panels are made from woven bamboo from Japan.

Om still does a lot of carpentry work, but does not find it as spiritually rewarding as cabinetwork. But a photograph of the just mentioned piece led to his employment for a couple of years in “LarryLand”, the Ellison extravaganza in Woodside, a job he obviously



(~2”) exposure. One employee’s full time job was just trimming the shingles. On a good day they could complete four courses of shingles. The roof took six weeks to complete. The waterfall has two speeds, and misters to give it the “Brazilian fog” look.

liked. He said he learned a great deal from Makoto Imai and others on this job. He showed us a few photos of the jobsite, including the Moon Pavilion (later renamed the Waterfall Pavilion) seen here. It is modelled after one in the Imperial Garden in Kyoto. The roof is made from old growth redwood bark cut into 6” shingles and applied in very short



In addition to learning a great deal while working at LarryLand, he also made a pretty good income. “We all had these little cups, and there was this faucet with money pouring out.” In fact, he even has machinery in his shop named after Larry.

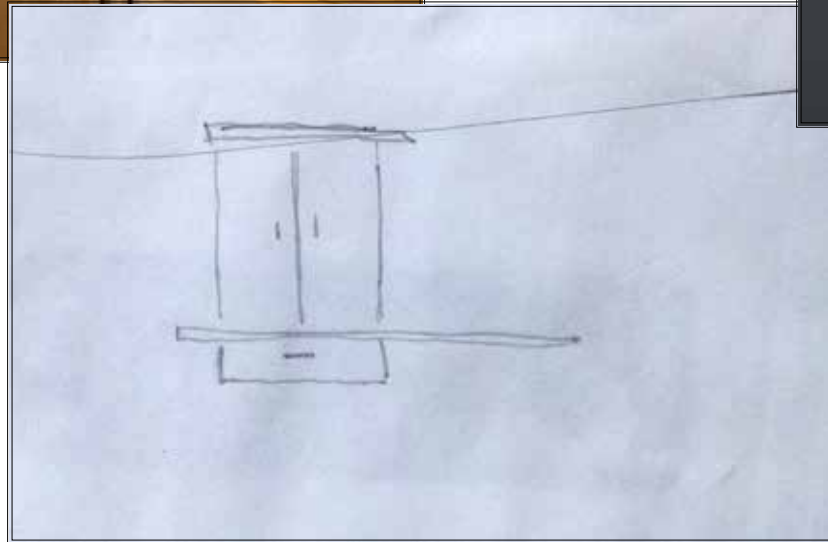


The Model



After working at LarryLand, Om decided to revive a design he had come up with a few years before and submit a proposal to Larry's decorator. They wanted a photograph, so he spent 40 hours building a 15" high model, which he then photographed. The response: we'll call you if we need you. Oops.

Ultimately he did build the piece, although fifteen years passed between the concept sketch and the completion. The cabinet is essentially an elevating box within a shell, with an electrically powered rack and pinion system to lift the inner cabinet. The panel material is mica.



Another cabinet he built lives in his home, and one day as he was looking at it he realized there was a face looking back at him. This led him back to the sketchpad (an envelope) and another design, seen here in madrone. As the evening drew to a close, the audience obviously enjoyed Om's wit and admired his skill, and rewarded him with an appreciative round of applause.



Photos courtesy Om Anand

Artistry in Wood 2016



Bowl by Scott Chilcott



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A Mobile Store bringing Tools and
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Sun Platter by Les Cizek

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Wood Forum is the monthly newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association. Please feel free to submit articles and photographs for inclusion in the publication. You can send your submissions to the Wood Forum Editor at SCWAEditor@gmail.com. Advertisements are also accepted with a nominal cost for paid members.

Membership Application

I would like to join the SCWA to meet other people interested in the craft, the art and the business of fine wood-working. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$35 for the annual dues. I understand that this fee entitles me to attend monthly meetings and to receive the Wood Forum newsletter by email or via the SCWA's website.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

What can you do to help further the organizational goals of our volunteer-run association? Please tell us how you would like to help:

Please send check and completed application to:

Sonoma County Woodworkers Association, PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA 95402