

## **Mission**

The Wood Turning Center is an arts and educational institution whose mission is leading the growth, awareness, appreciation and promotion of artists and their creation and design of art in wood and wood in combination with other materials.

# Turning Points online

February 2011

Issue: 16

## The Center in 2011 - Infinite Possibilities

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Albert LeCoff



Welcome to 2011 and the first issue of Turning Points. During 2011 we invite you to join us for celebrations of our 25/35 anniversaries - 25 marks the Center's incorporation in 1986 - 35 marks my career promoting art made from wood, starting with the March 1976 symposium at the George School in Newtown, PA co-organized with wood turner and teacher Palmer Sharpless and my brother Alan.

### **In This Issue**

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the Center**

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**New! Inventory in the  
Museum Store  
February Special:  
Members Receive a 15%  
Discount on All Items**

**Mopa Mopa Masks  
from Southern  
Columbia**



Albert LeCoff (standing), Alan LeCoff (sitting center), Palmer Sharpless (sitting right) in discussion with Janet and Paul Eshelman during the March 1976 George School Symposium.

- During 2011, we continue planning for the Center's move to new quarters in Old City in the late Spring. Stay tuned for more details as they evolve.
- We also look forward to year 16 of the ITE, the International Turning Exchange, taking place at the University of the Arts from June 1 to August 8.
- Thanks to the Friends of the Wood Turning Center, foundations and individual challenge grants, the Center starts 2011 in the best financial position in our history. Your responses, continued support, and participation in programs makes this possible.

### AAW Symposium June 2011

Join me for a panel I am organizing entitled *Turning to the Future*. Wood turning professionals and experts will project the trends they see affecting the wood art environment of the future.

#### Moderator:

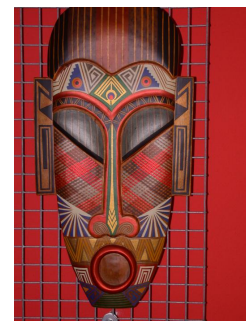
*Albert LeCoff*, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Wood Turning Center

#### Panelists:

*John Kelsey*, Editor, Fox Chapel Publishing

*Ray Leier*, Co-Director, DelMano Gallery

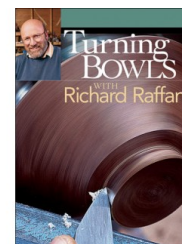
*Jennifer Komar Olivarez*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Associate Curator, Decorative Arts, Textiles and Sculpture



### Jonathan Spoons



### Books



### 2011 and 2012 ITE Resident Fellows Selected

The Wood Turning Center is proud to announce the 2011 and 2012 ITE Resident Fellows:

### 2011 Resident Fellow Artists:

Jacques Vesery, Artist and Independent Curator

Best regards,

Albert LeCoff  
Co-Founder & Executive Director

[Michael de Forest](#), OR,  
US

[Daniel Hoffman](#), PA, US

[Beth Ireland](#), MA, US

[Carl Pitman](#), NC, US

[Kimberly Winkle](#), TN, US

Resident Fellow  
Photojournalist and  
Scholar TBD

**2012 Resident  
Fellow Artists:**

[Darrell Copeland](#), NC, US

[Barbara Dill](#), VA, US

[John Hallett](#), South  
Australia

[Daniel Ostrov](#), PA, US

[Jeannette Rein](#), Australia

Resident Fellow  
Photojournalist and  
Scholar TBD

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**COMING UP**

**Exotic Woods,  
Metal Cutters and  
Dale Chase:  
Ornamental  
Turnings from the  
Walter Balliet Collection**  
(Mar 4 - Jul 23, 2011)

Fri: Mar 4: 5-6:30pm  
Opening Reception &  
Gallery Talk with

**HIGHLIGHTS COMING SOON**

- We are moving - The planning of our move to a new busy location in the heart of the Old City Arts District is continuing at a brisk pace. We will convey all the exciting news as arrangements firm up. Please stay tuned!
- Ornamental Turning Exhibition - Featuring a large donation by Walter Balliet of New Jersey to the Center's Museum Collection, a special exhibit opens on March 4, 2011. Over 200 unusual, complex objects show many aspects of this special art. Eighty boxes by the late Dale Chase of California will be a special feature of the exhibit. Balliet's donation of Chase's work makes the Center's collection the largest public collection of Chase's work to date, according to his widow, Charlene Chase. Join us from 5- 6:30 pm on March 4 to meet Walter Balliet and hear him talk about his unique collaborations with ornamental turners.
- New education initiatives emerge in 2011. Jack Larimore, a Philadelphia artist and educator, is the Center's part-time Education Program Coordinator. Already we've renewed a partnership with the community outreach Artmobile of Bucks County Community College, PA. Over the next 2 years the Artmobile will travel to over 60 school offering 40,000 students interactive and hands on programs. We are also working with The First State Woodturners to utilize their chapter's *Marble Maze* which was an AAW challenge piece, in children's programs in addition to work from the Center's collection. Classes, gallery talks and lectures are all possible.



- Fellow Scholar Program. Gerard Brown, Foundation Chair and Assistant Professor at Tyler School of Art, has been invited for the inaugural 2011. First, Brown is conducting research in the Center's archives and collections, pay site visits to museums containing wood art, and interviewing artists, collectors and scholars. Next he will synthesize and curate a Fall 2011 exhibition utilizing the Center's museum collection to reflect on the Center's role in the evolution of art made from wood. Judson Randall, of Oregon, will again lead the publication team and edit the full-color book that will document the exhibition.
- Thanks to a lead grant from the William Penn Foundation of Philadelphia, and months of work by intern David Staniunas, the Center has embarked on creating a data base of resources in our library, artist files and museum collection. This will lead to redesigning the Center's website to improve all aspects of posting, integrating and updating information. The Center is seeking interns to assist with this 2 year project.

Timothy Rub, the George D. Widener  
Director and CEO of the Philadelphia

Walter Balliet

Sat: Apr 9: 2-4pm Gallery  
Talk with Walter Balliet  
& Albert LeCoff

Sat: May 7: 1-3pm  
Gallery Talk with Walter  
Balliet & Albert LeCoff

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### ITE Open Studio Day

Sat: July 16, 2011  
10am - 4pm  
UArts

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**allTURNatives:**  
**Form + Spirit 2011**  
(Aug 5 - Sep 24, 2011)

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25/35 Year  
Anniversary  
Exhibition  
Curated by  
Gerard Brown

(Oct 7, 2011 - Jan 22,  
2012)

Fri: Oct 7:5-6:30pm  
Opening Reception &  
Gallery Talk with  
Gerard Brown

**A Big Welcome to  
Jack Larimore  
the Center's New  
Education Program  
Coordinator**

Jack Larimore, noted  
wood artisan and furniture



## Museum of Art Visits the Center

On Thursday, February 3, 2011, the Center was delighted to welcome Timothy Rub and his colleagues from the Department of American Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art to the Center for a special ceremony. PMA and Center invitees gathered to celebrate the "handover" of Michael Peterson's art piece *Coastal Stack V* which PMA acquired for their permanent collection. *Coastal Stack V* is featured in the *Michael Peterson Evolution | Revolution* mid career retrospective exhibition which originated at the Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, Washington, and is on display at the Center through February 19, 2011.

Elisabeth Agro, The Nancy M. McNeil Associate Curator of American Modern and Contemporary Crafts and Decorative Arts at PMA, was instrumental in the acquisition of *Coastal Stack V* for PMA's collection. Both Mr. Rub and Ms. Agro spoke at the ceremony as did Albert LeCoff, the Center's Executive Director, Richard Goldberg, the Center's President, Board of Trustees, and Michael Peterson. All touched upon the valuable connection between the Center and PMA and, in particular, the responsibility of both organizations for bringing wood art and craft to the forefront of the art world.



Left to Right: Albert LeCoff, Richard Goldberg, Michael and Jean Peterson, Elisabeth Agro, Kathy Foster, David Barquest, Timothy Rub

## We've Got A Plan

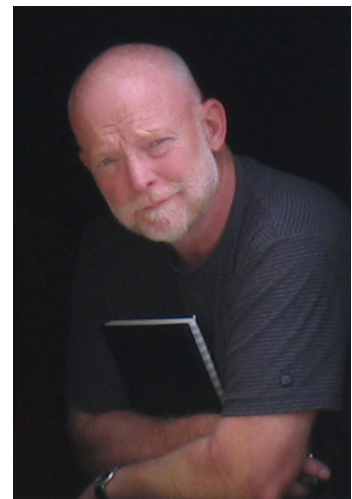
One of the Center's greatest achievements in 2010 was the development and implementation of its new Strategic Business Plan (2010-2012). The Center's Plan was developed by the Board of Trustees, Strategic Planning Committee,

maker, has joined the Center as its new Education Program Coordinator.

Among the many hats Jack will be wearing are developing, coordinating, and implementing the Center's educational initiatives, coordinating the annual ITE residency program, working with the Center's Branding Committee and developing a scholarship-based Fellow program at the Center.

Jack has worked professionally as a studio furniture maker in Philadelphia for 30 years. He has taught at several colleges and universities, most recently as Adjunct Professor in Fine Arts at The University of the Arts. Jack is the founder of Artswarm.

Through his work he pursues an intimacy with organic process. His studio is currently on a farm in Southern New Jersey.



Executive Director and consultant Carolyn Picciotti. Carolyn was linked to the Center by the Arts & Business Council of Philadelphia and was integral in helping to plot the Center's future. The Center is also delighted to note that because of her work with the Center, Carolyn has won the prestigious Arts & Business Volunteer of the Year Award. Carolyn will be honored at the annual **Arts & Business Council luncheon on Friday, April 29, 2011 at the Philadelphia Convention Center.**

The prime directive of the Plan was the creation of a concrete strategy to enable the Center to: (1) implement a far reaching and more economical dissemination of information through the redesign of the website and creation of accompanying database; (2) develop collaborative educational programming with other organizations, schools and businesses; and (3) undertake a move of the Center to a more accessible and heavily foot trafficked site in the heart of the Old City Arts District, and, most importantly, (4) ensure that the Center will operate in the black by the end of 2012. We are pleased to report that all of these initiatives are well underway and, thanks to the generous response by the Center's constituents to two challenge grants, we will see a cash reserve this year.

## Recent Grant Awards to the Center

The Center is extremely pleased to announce that it has been awarded grants for two new initiatives from the following funders: the **William Penn Foundation**, the **Arts & Business Council of Philadelphia** and the **Nonprofit Finance Fund**. The first two grants will be utilized to develop and implement a collections database and redesigned Center website. The William Penn grant will cover hard costs associated with the project. The Nonprofit Finance Fund grant will facilitate the development of a Marketing Plan for the Museum Store to be conducted by Joan Doyle of Doyle Associates of Philadelphia.

The Arts & Business Council selected the Center for technology assistance following an invitation to apply for technology planning assistance. The Council will assist the Center over the next 6 months with the project and provide technical guidance and expertise relative to project management and system integration.

The Center wishes to thank its grantors and is extremely grateful for their support.

Jack can be contacted through the Center at:

[Jack's Email](#)

## CALL FOR WORK

### **Show Your Stuff at the 18th Annual Wharton Esherick Museum Woodworking Competition and Exhibition**

This year's theme is CLOCKS. The Esherick Museum is calling all woodworkers, professionals, students and hobbyists to apply. Work proposed for the exhibition should be functional (beyond decorative or ceremonial), primarily of wood (painted or unpainted), existing or newly created, an expression of a non-traditional imaginative new design and the dimensions should not exceed 24" in width and depth and 72" in height.

A jury will select pieces to be exhibited at the Wharton Esherick Museum from September 11, 2011 through December 31, 2011. The entrance fee is \$25 for non-members and \$15 for Esherick Museum Members.

The deadline for submission is July 1, 2011.

To learn more log on to:  
[Esherick Museum](#)

# Members Meet and Exceed Challenges

In 2010, the Center undertook two fundraising challenges and with the proactive support of Friends, in the case of the 2010 Horn/Windgate Challenge Grant, the Center exceeded its goals. The Horn/Windgate challenge, awarded in May 2010, tasked the Center with raising \$40,000 by August 2010. Not only did we meet that challenge, but it was completed within 2 months and members helped exceed the original goal by over \$10,000!

As the Horn/Windgate Challenge neared its end, the Center received a gift of \$10,000 from an anonymous donor. When the donor, a long time friend of the Center, learned that the Center had successfully completed the first challenge, he instructed the Center to use his donation for a second challenge, and, even more amazing, stated he would raise his donation to \$20,000!

At the end of January 2011, the Center had met its goal for the \$20,000 matching grant. The funds raised in this challenge will be used for:

- future programming, including a redesigned website and creation of an integrated, web-based database showcasing the Center's collections and resources,
- the Center's move to a new space in the Old City Arts District,
- the registration and integration of 200 ornamentally turned objects, recently donated to the Center's Museum Collection by Walter Balliet of New Jersey, and
- the integration of art work donated to the collection by Neil and Susan Kaye of Delaware.

The Board and staff want to thank our amazing friends for their incredible generosity.

If you would like to take this opportunity to renew your membership or make a donation to the Center, please contact the Center at 215-923-8000 or click on the button below.



## **Jerome Blanc 2009 ITE Resident Fellow Wins Local Award**

Congratulations to Jerome Blanc, a resident of Geneva, Switzerland, who was recently awarded 2nd Place by the City for his work *Urban Trilogy*.

Jerome illustrates the cycle of urban development which include the natural state, the design state and the construction state.



## **Thinking of Giving? Consider the Center's Legacy Program**

A major component of the Center's new Strategic Business Plan is the development of the Legacy Program.

The Legacy Program is designed to allow our friends, members, donors and constituents the opportunity to give a gift that will survive through the years. The Legacy program will provide donors with a unique, ongoing connection that

## Log On and Research!

What if you could log on to your home computer and access the Center's Museum Collection, Research Library and Archives, view 360 degree virtual gallery exhibitions, watch videos created by artists and Center staff, chat via social media and purchase over 500 items from our Museum Store? Soon you will be able to.

The website/database project is one of the Center's most important initiatives. The project is currently underway and is anticipated to be up and running by late 2011. The new website/database will provide a seamless interface via the internet for those seeking increased access to the field of wood art, to access the Center's resources including the archives and Museum Collection, to link with calendar events and happenings, and to purchase amazing art, books and tools.

We invite our members, donors and constituents to let us know their suggestions for the new website. Please send us your thoughts at [info@woodturningcenter.org](mailto:info@woodturningcenter.org). We will be keeping you abreast of our progress in upcoming issues of *Turning Points*.

will honor the wishes and life of the donor and, in turn, provide vital sustainability to the organization.

The Center will be rolling out the Legacy Program shortly. In the interim, to request more information please contact [Legacy Program](#)

## Gerard Brown, the Center's First Resident Fellow Scholar

The Wood Turning Center is pleased to announce that Gerard Brown is the first Resident Fellow in a landmark program supporting scholarship, research and writing related to the field of wood art.

Brown, Foundation Chair and Assistant Professor at Tyler School of Art, will undertake a major project to write an extensive essay and organize an upcoming exhibition documenting the history and programming of the Center. Targeted for Fall 2011, the exhibit will celebrate the Center's *25/35 Anniversary* with an accompanying color catalogue. The roots of the Wood Turning Center stretch back to 1976 when Albert LeCoff, his brother Alan LeCoff, and teacher and turner Palmer Sharpless, began to organize wood turning symposia and then exhibitions. The Center's archives and library also stem from those early years.



Brown sees this residency as an ideal opportunity to explore the unique world of art inspired by wood. He sees the intersection of the art's history and the growing critical conversation about craft as an exciting backdrop for the investigation of the Wood Turning Center's collection, rich in Modernist and more recent Post-Modernist and 21st century examples. He will explore the Center's library and analyze the Center itself, including its history, evolution and programming. He seeks links between the objects the Center collected and the dialogues the Center fostered. He has begun to familiarize himself with the Museum Collection of 900 objects, ranging from functional items and furniture to decorative ornamental turnings and large scale sculpture, prints and films. Brown will also familiarize himself with other collections of wood. From the Museum Collection, he will ultimately put together an exhibition that represents and interprets the Center's anniversary and history over 35 years.

## Bucks County Community College Artmobile -- Time for a Second Round

The Center is delighted to collaborate again with the highly successful BCCC Artmobile community outreach/education program. Artmobile was first begun in 1976 and provides critical arts, education and cultural activities to school children by bringing the art to their classroom. The Artmobile is a large, wheelchair accessible trailer, that is brought to the schools where it serves as a mobile classroom. Children in grades K through 12 participate in the program and the Artmobile coordinators work with teachers to develop activities that reflect the children's curricula.

Artmobile 2011-2013 is a partnership between the Center and Bucks County Community College and will be available to schools throughout Bucks County, PA. Each year, Artmobile serves over 20,000 children and services between 30 and 40 schools. Fran Orlando, Director of Exhibitions and Artmobile, of Bucks County Community College and Jack Larimore, Educational Program Coordinator at the Wood Turning Center, serve as joint coordinators for the program. As a partner, the Center will provide an educational video, hands-on demonstrations and objects from its collection to display in the Artmobile. From these pieces, lesson plans, activities and demonstrations will be developed. Utilizing wood as the medium, Artmobile will provide children with live turning demonstrations, hands-on activities and an opportunity to create their own works of art which will then be shown in an exhibition at their school and the Center.



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