November 2011

The Center in 2011 - Realization of a Dream

FROM THE CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write to you from our new space at 141 N. 3rd Street in Old City Philadelphia. In the few short months since our last Turning Points newsletter, The Center has undergone momentous changes -- a new name, new location and new website are just the beginning: formerly The Wood Turning Center, we are now truly The Center for Art in Wood.

After quietly opening our doors on First Friday November 4 and hosting an Opening Celebration Weekend on November
11-13, we welcomed 1,245 visitors - in just 2 short weeks! If you think our new space is not inducement enough to visit, our 25th Anniversary exhibition, *Turning to Art in Wood: A Creative Journey*, is now on display and the beautiful 25th anniversary limited-edition Portfolio publication of the same name is available.

Come see for yourself! The building is extraordinary and is receiving high praise from everyone who visits. We are open 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday - Saturday. Information at 215-923-8000 or The Center for Art in Wood.

It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without your support and belief in The Center for Art in Wood. I cannot thank you enough for making my dreams, and the dreams of so many artists, come true.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and Staff, as well as myself and the community of wood artists, I say "Welcome!" We look forward to seeing you often at this beautiful, vibrant new Center for Art in Wood.

Best wishes to you and yours for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Albert LeCoff
Co-Founder & Executive Director

**Opening Celebration**

On Friday, November 11, The Center for Art in Wood officially threw open its doors with an Opening Celebration Party attended by more than 130 guests - artists, donors, members and friends -- from near and far.
The Celebration inaugurated the 25th anniversary exhibition *Turning to Art in Wood: A Creative Journey* and its accompanying Portfolio publication. A short program featured remarks by co-founder and executive director Albert LeCoff, co-founder Alan LeCoff, and Richard Goldberg, president of the Board of Trustees.

To mark the occasion, the City of Philadelphia honored Albert LeCoff and The Center for Art in Wood for their contributions to the arts community with an official tribute proclamation. An exciting moment!

The evening was made especially festive by delicious fare provided by JPM Catering & Events and music by violinist Madeline Gralish. Events Specialist Nancy Vonada, serving as a volunteer through the Arts & Business Council of Philadelphia, was a great help in assuring that everything ran smoothly.

Besides raising spirits, the evening raised over $15,000 through ticket sales, donations, a raffle and store sales to support The Center's educational programming.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who attended, and for those who could not join us, please enjoy these photos from the evening.
Opening Celebration guests enjoying themselves

Co-Founder & Executive Director Albert LeCoff

CURRENT AND COMING:

Turning to Art in Wood: A Creative Journey
Nov 11 2011 - Apr 21, 2012

Museum Store Holiday Sale
Dec 1 - 24, 2011
Discounts of 10% to 30%

Hooked on Wood: Fish Decoys and Life Aquatic
May 18 - July 21, 2012

Get your daily Center fix by becoming our friend on Facebook

The Perfect Holiday Gift

The Perfect Holiday Gift

The Perfect Holiday Gift
Board of Trustees President, Richard Goldberg, presenting Albert LeCoff with a Tribute from the City of Philadelphia

To view more photos from our Celebration please visit our Facebook page at Facebook

Completing Our Wish List -- A New Challenge

Over the past few months, with the support of members and friends, The Center for Art in Wood has made amazing strides. Visitors are enthusiastic -- praising the beauty and value that The Center brings to Old City. While we've achieved a great deal in a short period of time, a few items still remain on our checklist.

To assist The Center in raising funds, a very generous donor has recently come forward with a wonderful challenge grant:

**Raise $25,000 by December 15, 2011 and the donor will match this with an additional $50,000**

If you're searching for the perfect holiday gift, you've found it.

In conjunction with our newest exhibition, *Turning to Art in Wood*, The Center has published a 284-page full-color limited-edition Portfolio publication, numbered and signed by the authors.

This beautiful publication includes illustrated, insightful essays by Center co-founder Albert LeCoff, Elisabeth Agro, Glenn Adamson, Michelle Holzapfel, Robin Rice, exhibition curator Gerard Brown, and board chairman Richard R. Goldberg.

These tell the fascinating story of "the creative journey" of The Wood Turning Center in Philadelphia and its historic role in fostering worldwide recognition of
Now we are asking you -- our friends, members and donors -- to consider making a donation towards the challenge grant by December 15.

Your generosity will help The Center to address its very specific needs, and also provide you with a timely tax deduction for 2011.

For those who contribute $250 or more by December 15, The Center will give each person a one-year individual membership to The Center (value $50.00) or a renewal on a current membership.

To make a donation, please click on the following link I Want To Support the Center.

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**Take A Day Off!**

**Come See Our Newest Exhibition**

*Turning to Art in Wood: A Creative Journey*

More than 100 objects comprise The Center for Art in Wood's 25th anniversary exhibition, purposefully selected from the Center's collection of more than 1000 art works, dating from the 1970's and 1980's to today. All have been acquired or are promised gifts.

From extraordinary bowls, wall art and furniture to abstract sculptures and newly imagined forms, objects are grouped in "conversations" that ask viewers to consider them from new perspectives.

Exhibition curator Gerard Brown, Foundation Chair and Assistant Professor of Art at Temple University's Tyler School of the finest contemporary art in wood. Exhibition photographic cards showcase the more than 100 objects in the 25th anniversary exhibition and an 80-page book displays thumbnail images of all the objects represented in the Center's museum collection, from its earliest beginnings until today.

Turning to Art in Wood is a truly organic publication that will continue to grow over the years along with The Center’s collection. Updates will be sent each year to subscribers who maintain their annual memberships.

**Purchase price: $125.**

Shipping and applicable taxes are additional.

To purchase your copy, contact Lori Reece at 215-923-8000.

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**Opportunities for Artists**

Houston Center for Turning Points Newsletter November 2011
of Art, "discovered" the collection while a Resident Scholar at The Center for Art in Wood. "I would occasionally ask myself, 'what am I looking at?' In fact, I learned I was not interested in those objects as souvenirs or relics or for their status...I am interested in how this collection might propel a conversation forward by creating new conversations between artists and objects."

The result is a challenging exhibition of exceptional works - organized into "chapters" that Brown calls Conversations, What is it? (e.g., What is a bowl?), Materiality, Color and Function, Tool Time, and Sculpture. While there are "star" artists represented - including David Ellsworth, Mark Lindquist, Mark Sfirri, Merryll Saylan, Jack Larimore, Gord Peteran, Michelle Holzapfel, Jim Partridge, Garry Knox Bennett and Wendy Murayama - many pieces are by less well-known artists who are influencing the discussion. In recent years, more international artists and women working in wood have come forward.

"A collection has a use," says Brown, "and its function is to push a field forward."

Contemporary Craft - Artist Residency Program

Applications must arrive by March 15, 2012.

Media Accepted: Wood, Glass, Metal, Fiber, Clay, Mixed Media

Access to wide variety of professional opportunities and resources 3, 6, 9 or 12-month residencies
Monthly stipend Quarterly living/materials bonus
Free studio space

Interested artists should send a completed application form and supporting materials to:
Artist-in-Residence Program
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
4848 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

For more information, call 713-529-4848 x112, or to download an application visit
Artist-in-Residence
Applications are under the Artist-in-Residence tab.
Thinking of Giving? Consider the Legacy Program

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

This Program is designed will allow our friends, members, donors and constituents to give a gift that will survive through the years.

The Legacy Program will honor the wishes of the donor and, in turn, provide long-term sustainability to the organization.

For more information, please contact Michael Lane at: Legacy Program

Membership Support Is The Heart Of The Center

It enables us to operate day-to-day, develop exhibitions, produce publications, and...
NORTHSTAR Advisors, LLC (Donor)  
Gerry Lenfest (Gallery)  
Fleur & Charles Bresler (Resource Library)  
Norty Rockler Woodworking (Community Collections Study  
Gallery Room)  
The Bresler Family Foundation  
(Executive Director's Office)  
Len Scherock (Museum Store)  
Earl Powell (Artist Research Files)  
Deena & Jerry Kaplan (Gallery Bench)  
Carol Bresler & Carolyn Billinghamurst  
(Donor to Fleur & Charles Bresler Resource Library)  
Edward Bresler  
(Donor to Fleur & Charles Bresler Resource Library)  
Leonard & Norma Klorfline Foundation (Donor)  
Bucks Woodturners (PA) (Movers & Shakers)  
Capital Area Woodturners (MD) (Movers & Shakers)  
Cape Atlantic Woodturners (NJ) (Movers & Shakers)  
DelVal Turners (NJ) (Movers & Shakers)  
First State Woodturners (Movers & Shakers)  
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Albert & Tina LeCoff (Donor)  
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Take A Look --
The New Website Makes Its Debut

www.centerforartinwood.org

After months of hard work, we are excited to announce the
debut of The Center's new website: Center for Art in Wood
Website.

Many talented people developed this project, including
Catalyst Creative, designer Dan Saal and Center staff.
Funding and support was provided by the William Penn
Foundation, Windgate Charitable Foundation, Ron Wornick

The website provides a dynamic interface that is easy to use
and very accessible. In addition to presenting current
information about The Center and its activities, the site also
provides a database that enables users to search The Center's
collections for study and enjoyment.

We want to know how this works for you....so please send
your comments to Ron Humbertson at Ron Humbertson.