

JONATHAN BENSON

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EDUCATION

Rhode Island School of Design, M.F.A. (Furniture Design) 1986
Iowa State University, B.A. (Art and Design), 1984

BOOKS

Transforming Your Kitchen with Stock Cabinetry: Design Select and Install for a Custom Look at the Right Price: By Jonathan & Sherry Benson, Fox Chapel Publishing, East Petersburg, PA, 2010. This book first guides the reader through the process of designing, selecting cabinets and counter tops then continues on with step-by-step instructions on how tear out and install a new kitchen.

Woodworker's Guide to Bending Wood, by Jonathan Benson, Fox Chapel Publishing, East Petersburg, PA, 2008. This is a comprehensive guide to wood bending that details seven different techniques including steam bending, bent lamination and bent plywood construction.

Woodworkers Guide to Veneering and Inlay, by Jonathan Benson, Fox Chapel Publishing, East Petersburg, PA, 2008. This book covers all aspects of wood veneering including material, process and design.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Featured Artist: East Village Books, Des Moines, IA, March, 2008.

Recent Furniture and Sculpture by Jonathan Benson: Blue Sky Café and Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, 2003

Jonathan Benson: 25 Years of Furniture Design: Cage Gallery, Miami University, Oxford, OH, 2002.

Furniture and Sculptural Art by Jonathan Benson: Franklin Parrasch Gallery, Washington, D.C., 1986.

AWARDS

Custom Woodworking Business Magazine National Design Portfolio Awards: Honorable Mention, Residential Furniture, 2003.

Niche Awards Finalist: Rosen Group Publishing, Baltimore, MD, 2002.

Niche Awards Finalist: Rosen Group Publishing, Baltimore, MD, 2001.

Northern New Mexico Woodworkers' Guild: (Award, Best Art Appeal) Annual Show, Santa Fe, NM, 1999.

Iowa Arts: (Juried, First Award, Crafts) Memorial Union, Ames, IA, 1984.

Art and Design Annual: (Merit Award) Iowa State University College of Design, Ames Iowa, 1984.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS AND COLLECTIONS

Walter Reed Army Hospital, Arlington, VA

Altar for the Chapel of the Virgin Mary, Bilek, Czech Republic

Hal and Babette Negbauer, New York, NY

Susan Annett, Los Angeles, CA

Charles Oswald, Aspen, CO

Gayla and Jim Von Ehr, Richardson, TX

Judith Graves, Newport Beach, CA

William Wise, Bonita Beach, FL

PRESENTATIONS / SEMINARS

“Fusion of the Mind and Hands”, Furniture Society Annual Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, June 2010. The furniture makers role in American society and industry were explored.

“Veneering Workshop with Jonathan Benson”, Marc Adams School of Woodworking, Franklin, IN 2010 and 2008. This one week course in veneering began with the basic book match and go through four-, eight- and twelve-way matches. Hammer veneering and working with curves also were introduced.

“Wood Veneering Workshops”, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA. These weekend workshops cover the basics of working with fine wood veneers. 2009

“Veneering and Wood Bending Seminars”, (ongoing) At regional Woodcraft stores. Introductory lectures, classes and seminars covering veneering, wood bending and related topics 2008 to present

- “Veneering Seminar”**, Prairie Rose Studio, Indianola, IA, April 2007 and October 2007. In this two-day seminar, participants with no previous experience were able complete a basic book-match, a four-way match, an eight way match and an inlay.
- “Bending Wood”**, Des Moines Woodworkers Club, Des Moines, IA, April, 2007. This demonstration presented wood bending techniques including steam bending, bent lamination and forming plywood using vacuum press.
- “Marketing for Woodworking”**, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, 2007. This seminar for I.S.U. career days gave students tools for learning about the woodworking market and marketing their work.
- “Veneering With a Master Craftsman”**, The Woodsmith Store, Urbandale, IA, 2006 and 2007. These seminars sought to take the mystery out of veneering by showing audience members who possess a few basic tools how to get started with veneering by making a basic project. More complex processes were also presented to illustrate the many possibilities of veneering.
- “Artist Presentation”** Furniture Society Annual Conference, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, July 2005. This presentation included a demonstration of the hammer veneering process, veneer inlay and a slide presentation of my work.
- “Marketing for Furniture Makers”**, Delivered at the Furniture Society Annual Conference, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA, June, 2004. This was a hands-on workshop for makers who wished to get the word out about their work. Topics covered included press releases, press kits, mailing lists, advertising and how to get free publicity.
- “Developing a Portfolio”**, Delivered at the Furniture Society Annual Conference, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA, June, 2004. This workshop covered several different types of portfolios and what materials each should contain. Topics covered included types of portfolios, resumes, cover letters, images, and how to find and approach galleries, stores and potential clients.
- “How Studio Furniture Pushes the Envelope Between Function and Art”**, Delivered at the “Small Wood 2002; Community & Economic Development Opportunities in Small Tree Utilization” conference. This conference was sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and took place in Albuquerque, NM in 2002. This presentation began with a brief history of hand-made furniture in the United States and continued with an examination various recent trends in furniture design, then concluded with an introduction of the work of many studio furniture makers that were working currently at that time.

“Guest Artist/Critic”, The University of Miami, Ohio, 2002. Presentations included history of furniture design, my work over 25 years and concluded with a critique of student work.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

“No Fear Veneering”, Woodcraft Magazine, Oct/Nov 2010. This article gives the beginner everything they need to know to create a four-way matched veneered panel.

“Book Matched Clocks”, American Woodturner, Summer 2008 A step by description of the design, construction and lathe turning of solid spalted maple clocks.

“Inlaid Desk: Start to Finish” Woodworker West, Series 2009-2010. This article details the construction of a traditional desk with an inlaid walnut burl top and a hand-cut dovetailed drawer.

How to Work Studio Furniture Commissions, Woodshop News. March, 2007. This article explains the differences and similarities between working with clients when building studio furniture verses more traditional kitchen and cabinet types of commissions.

“Veneering Demands Right Adhesive Choice” Woodshop News, February 2007. This article examines the many types of adhesives available and their suitability to variety of veneering applications.

“A Wall Mirror With Curves”, Woodwork Magazine, December 2006. The article details how to construct a mirror with veneer covered, bent laminated sides. Processes covered include bending, veneering, hammer veneering and router joinery.

“The Commission: A Creative Process” Furniture Studio III, Published by the Furniture Society, 2005. This book chapter explores the creative process involved when furniture makers interact with clients. The commissioning process was examined as inspiration for new work and new ideas. Five makers were interviewed for this publication.

“When it’s Time to Move Your Shop”, Pro Shop Column, Woodshop News Magazine, January, 2005. This article explains the best way to move a woodworking operation over a long distance. Topics covered included what keep and what to sell, costs and logistics.

“Marketing and Sales for Northern New Mexico Wood Artisans--An Action Plan

For Wood Artists", Prepared for the USDA by the Tri-Area Association for Economic Development and co-authored with Sherry Wise, 2002. This comprehensive document looked at the overall market for home furnishings, art objects and studio furniture. It then went on to explain strategies for artisans to identify and reach customers most likely to purchase their work.

ARTICLES / PUBLICATIONS (About Mr. Benson)

- "Wavelength: Furniture That Throws a Curve"**, Elan Magazine, January, 2011.
Overview of Jonathan Benson's work
- "Furniture in Motion"**, Brad Walseth, Custom Woodworking Business Magazine, August, 2008. Mr. Benson's approach to business and design is the topic of this article.
- "Unexpected Turns"** Des Moines Home Style Magazine, July 2008. An in-depth look at the life and work of Jonathan Benson
- "Shaping a Career"**, Jim Pollok, Des Moines Business Record, November 6, 2006. Mr. Benson's work and career profiled.
- "Making Furniture with Curve Appeal"**, Workbench Magazine, April, 2006. Mr. Benson's unique approach to design and furniture construction are explained.
- "Turning The Tables on Furniture Design"**, by Dottie Endyke, Santa Fean Magazine, November 2004. Mr. Benson's work is profiled.
- "Wood Art Today"**, by Dona Meilach, Schiffer Press, 2003 Work profiled in book.
- "Form Follows Function"**, by Jeanie Puleston Fleming, New Mexico Magazine, April, 2002. Mr. Benson's work and career presented.
- "Craftsman Thrives on TRADE"**, by Lorraine Goldman, The Santa Fe New Mexican, July 31, 2001. How Mr. Benson promotes himself and his work. How he works with local non-profit organizations to promote his work and helps others to promote their work.
- "Commissions"**, American Craft Magazine, February/March 2001. Work presented.
- "Benson's Work in Wood is Fanciful, Solid"**, by Paul Weideman, Pasatiempo Magazine, The Santa Fe New Mexican, December 31, 1999. Benson's work and life profiled.
- "Furniture Maker's Bent for Curves Inspired by Futurist Mania for Motion"**, by Roger Farrand, Woodshop News, May 1993. Benson's work and life profiled.
- "Designing Furniture: From Concept to Shop Drawing"** by Seth Stem, Taunton Press, 1989. Work used as example in book.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2008

Furniture and Sculpture by Jonathan Benson, East Village Books, Des Moines, IA.

2006

Weather or Not: Coady Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM.

- 2004
2004 Custom Woodworking Business Magazine National Design Portfolio Awards:
Honorable Mention, Residential Furniture.
- 2003
Artistry in Wood, New Mexico 2003: (Juried) Hotel St. Francis, Santa Fe, NM.
Faculty Student Show: Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe, NM.
New Traditions: Shidoni Arts, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2002
By Design, New Traditions in Contemporary Furniture: Shidoni Arts, Santa Fe, NM.
Niche Awards Finalist: Rosen Group Publishing, Baltimore, MD.
- 2001
Fifteenth Anniversary Exhibition, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY.
Landscapes and Furniture: The Jayne Gallery, Kansas City, MO.
Northern New Mexico Studio Tour Artists Exhibition: (Invitational) The Governor's
Gallery, New Mexico State House, Santa Fe NM.
30th Anniversary Exhibition: Shidoni Arts, Santa Fe, NM.
Above and Beyond: (Juried) Sky Harbor Art Program, Sky Harbor Airport, Phoenix, AZ.
Niche Awards Finalist: Rosen Group Publishing, Baltimore, MD.
- 2000
Faculty-Student Show: Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe, NM.
- 1999
Northern New Mexico Woodworkers' Guild: (Award, Best Art Appeal) Annual Show,
Santa Fe, NM.
Mixed Media: Northwest Fine Woodworking, Kirkland, WA.
- 1997
Crafts National 31: (Juried) Zoller Gallery, Penn State University, University Park, PA.
1st Annual Juried Regional Exhibition of Fine Furniture: Gallery Americas, Carrboro, NC.
Contemporary Influences: Northwest Fine Woodworking, Seattle, WA.
- 1996
Annual Turning Show: Sansar Gallery, Washington, DC.
Furniture Insight/Inspiration: (Invitational) Harmony Hall Regional Center, Maryland
State Arts Council.
- 1994
The Furniture Show: Del Ray Arts Center, Alexandria, VA.
- 1993
Artist's Choice: Merideth Gallery, Baltimore, MD.
- 1992
Rain Forest Safe Show: (Juried) Northwest Gallery of Fine Woodworking, Seattle, WA.
19 Artists Interpret The Clock: Sansar Gallery, Washington, DC.
- 1991
The Art of the Useful: (Juried) Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, MA.
Fine and Funky Furniture: (Invitational) Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND.
- 1990
Crafted Statements: (Juried) Craft Alliance Gallery, St. Louis, MO.

- Lathe-Turned Furniture: Ten Arrow Gallery, Cambridge, MA.
- 1989
- 10 Contemporary Artists Interpreting Craftsmanship Through Furniture: Couturier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
- The Art of the Craft I & II: Joanne Lyon Gallery, Aspen, CO.
- 1988
- International Turned Objects: (Juried) Port of History Museum, Philadelphia, PA.
- Materials and Techniques: Art and Architectural Design, Baltimore, MD.
- Iowa State 88: Dept. of Art & Design Faculty Show, Blanden Gallery, Fort Dodge, IA.
- 1987
- New Visions: Gallery at Workbench, New York, NY.
- Contemporary American Furniture: Joanne Lyon Gallery, Aspen, CO
- 1986
- Spirit of the Wood ... Command of Line: Franklin Parrasch Gallery, Washington, DC.
- Diverse Directions: Taunton Press, Newtown, CT.
- MFA Exhibition: Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.
- 1985
- RISD Work: Elements Gallery, Greenwich, CT.
- Winter Session Exhibition Series: Woods Gerry Gallery, Providence, RI.
- Woodworks: Woods Gerry Gallery, Providence, RI.
- 1984
- Iowa Arts: (Juried, First Award, Crafts) Memorial Union, Ames, IA.
- 1983
- Iowa College Salon: (Juried) Brunnier Gallery and Museum, Ames, IA.
- Art and Design Annual: (Juried) Design Center, Ames, IA.
- 1982
- Iowa Crafts: (Juried) MacNider Museum, Mason City, IA.
- 1979
- Iowa Designer Crafts Exhibition: Octagon Center for the Arts, Ames, IA.
- 1977
- Clay and Paper Show: (Juried) Octagon Center for the Arts, Ames, IA.
- 1975
- All Iowa Fair: (First Award, Student Division) Davenport, IA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe, NM, 2000-2004
Instructor, Thomas Jefferson Community Center, Arlington, VA, 1996-1999
Instructor, Genoa School of Arts and Crafts, Genoa, NY, 1991-1992
Temporary Assistant Professor, College of Design, Iowa State University, 1987-1991
Teacher (Part-time), Wheeler School, Providence, RI, 1985
Teaching Assistant, Rhode Island School of Design, 1984-1985

COLLEGE COURSES TAUGHT

Beginning through Advanced Furniture Design

-Drawing, mechanical drawing, design basics, idea generation, visual self-expression ergonomics and furniture history.

Beginning through Advanced Furniture Construction

-Wood properties, hand tool use, safe and proper machine tool use, joinery (both hand-cut and machine made), and the use of alternative materials such as stone, metal and glass. Also all types of finishing and surface treatment.

Beginning through Advanced Wood Turning

-Spindle turning, faceplate turning, design aesthetics and sculpting with the lathe.

Veneering, Bending and Laminating

-Construction of bent panels, bent laminations, steam bending, basic veneering, inlay veneering and the manufacture and use of band saw-veneers.

Business of Woodworking and Art

-Tax structures, bookkeeping, basic economics, hiring employees, costing, advertising, marketing, press releases, press kits, working with clients, stores and galleries and how to write a business plan.

Two-dimensional Foundations

-Drawing, elements and principles of design and art appreciation.

Three-dimensional Foundations

-Modeling, sculpting, elements and principles of design and visualization.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Owner, Jonathan Benson Furniture, 1992-present

Owner, Benson Fine Woodcrafting, 2008-present

Designed and built a house and studio in Santa Fe, NM, 1999-2000

Restored Homes in Geneva, NY and Alexandria, VA, 1992-1999

Production Wood Turner (Part-time 1987-present

Cabinet Maker (part time), Carl Tesse Designs, Alexandria VA 1997-1999

Restoration Carpenter, Dixon Co. Foster, RI, 1986-1987

Cabinet Maker, Zyllo Designs, Providence, RI, 1985-1986

Welder/Metal Fabricator/Machinist, Allen Machine, Ames, IA, 1977-1982

Furniture Maker, Hills Furniture, Santa Fe, NM, 1976-1977