

American Association of Woodturners



A Gathering of Spoons

Selections from the collection of Norman D. Stevens

Published by the American Association of Woodturners
222 Landmark Center, 75 5th St W
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
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www.woodturner.org
www.galleryofwoodart.org

Sponsored by the Professional Outreach Program (POP)
POP Chair: Trent Bosch
Design, layout, photography: Tib Shaw
Cover piece: Zina Burliou

Printed in the United States of America

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American Association of Woodturners Gallery of Wood Art
Saint Paul, Minnesota
March 2 - May 23, 2010

AAW Symposium Special Exhibition
Hartford Connecticut
June 18 -20, 2010

Foreword

The wooden spoon is among the oldest of the world's essential functional objects. Though often mundane, it can also provide an opportunity for skilled wood artists to create elegant sculptural objects to be examined, handled, and admired. Using a variety of techniques, tools, skills, and wood species, contemporary amateur and professional spoon makers throughout the world continue to produce representations of this basic form, typically with inspired variations. Many spoon makers, even those in industrialized societies, often choose to live close to the land from which they gather their materials.

A Gathering of Spoons is an extraordinary collection of nine-inch wooden spoons assembled by Norman D. Stevens since 2006, which documents contemporary spoon making in the early twenty-first century. This selection of 100 teaspoons from a collection of more than 180 pieces is a feast for the eyes.

This important collection demonstrates the remarkable variety of form and decoration possible when an everyday object is interpreted with imagination and skill. It provides a benchmark of contemporary wood spoon making, primarily in the United States, but with examples from more than a dozen other countries as well.

Spoons in the exhibit range from those with a functional folk character to highly sophisticated pieces intended as decorative objects. The use of many wood species presents a grand array of color, texture and figure. The impressive number of participating spoon carvers reflects widespread interest by woodworkers in this traditional craft.

~ Barry Gordon and Norm Sartorius

About Norman D. Stevens

Norman D. Stevens is Director Emeritus of the University of Connecticut Libraries. He and his wife Nora, also a librarian, appreciate and collect contemporary crafts, and are closely associated with the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. They live in Storrs, Connecticut.

Norman's creative and persistent collecting of wooden spoons has been conducted with dignity, enthusiasm, and affection. He has clearly enjoyed searching for and communicating with each participant. He and Nora have assembled many significant collections with respect and kindness, making numerous friends throughout the craft world. We spoon carvers are grateful to them for their patronage, their understanding of our work, and their willingness to give it prominent recognition.

~ Barry Gordon and Norm Sartorius



▲ Joseph Albert
Washington
Alder, 2006

Jim Anderson ▼
Minnesota
Koa, 2009





▲ Abram Barrett
Maine
Zircote, 2008

Jude Binder ▼
West Virginia
Maple, 2008





▲ Elia Bizzarri
North Carolina
Dogwood, 2006

Paul Burke ▼
Massachusetts
Teak, 2006





▲ Zina Burliou
Romania
Plum, 2008

Richard Carlisle ▼
New York
Pink ivory, 2007





▲ William Chappelow
California
Mesquite, 2006

Dennis Chilcote ▼
Minnesota
Pincherry, 2009





▲ Ray Cologon
Australia
Southern myrtle, silver ash, 2006

Ronald Cook ▼
California
Flowering plum, 2006





▲ William Coperthwaite
Maine
Pine, 2006

Martin Corbin ▼
Australia
Western myall, 2007





▲ Jarrod Dahl
Wisconsin
Buckthorn, 2009

Jon Delp ▼
Virginia
English boxwood, purpleheart, 2008





▲ Tom Dengler
Minnesota
Birch, 2008

Dan Dustin ▼
New Hampshire
Blueberry, 2006





▲ Mark English
West Virginia
White oak, 2008

▼ Deb Fanelli
Vermont
Danish elm, 2008





▲ Doug Finkel
Virginia
Boxwood, 2008

Frank Foltz ▼
Minnesota
Buckthorn, 2006





▲ Ken Free
Australia
Red gum, 2006

Dewey Garrett ▼
California
Walnut, 2010





▲ Barry Gordon
New York
American elm, 2007

Rick Gorman ▼
California
Santa Rosa plum, 2006





▲ Connie Hardt
Arkansas
Madrone, 2006

▼ Ray Helgager
South Dakota
Birch, 2006





▲ Louise Hibbert
Virginia
English sycamore, 2008

Jim Hill ▼
Montana
Spalted birch, 2008





▲ Rodney Hopkins
North Carolina
American holly, 2009

Paul Jensen ▼
Wisconsin
Pink ivory, brown ebony, 2007





▲ Vern Judkins
Idaho
Plum, walnut ebony, bone 2007

Rich Klein ▼
South Carolina
Spalted dogwood, 2006





▲ Tom Latané
Wisconsin
Birch, 2008

▼ Deborah Lively
Massachusetts
Beech, 2006





▲ Fred Livesay
Minnesota
Lilac, 2010

Barry Loewen ▼
Manitoba
Apple, 2006





▲ Harry Mangalan
California
Ash, black epoxy, 2007

▼ Ben Manns
Pennsylvania
Sumac, 2008





▲ Philip Marshall
Alaska
Black spruce, 2009

Paschal ▼
Minnesota
Rock maple, 2007





▲ Peter Petrochko
Connecticut
Staghorn sumac, 2007

Ainslie Pyne ▼
Australia
Huron pine, 2008





▲ Dale Randles
Washington
Madrone, 2006

Judy Ritger ▼
Minnesota
Red cedar, 2006





▲ Sue Robishaw
Michigan
Wild pear, 2006

▼ Dennis Ruane
North Carolina
Cherry, 2007





▲ Jamie Russell
Saskatchewan
Western curly maple, 2009

Amy Sabrina ▼
Minnesota
Chinese elm, 2008





▲ Jim Sannerud
Minnesota
Birch, 2010

▼ Norm Sartorius
West Virginia
Afzelia lay, 2006





▲ Betty Scarpino
Indiana
Persimmon, 2008

Kent Scheer ▼
Minnesota
Apple, 2006





▲ Steve Schmeck
Michigan
Buckthorn, 2006

Mike Schwing ▼
Maryland
Mahogany, 2009





▲ Mark Sfirri
Pennsylvania
Alaskan yellow cedar, 2007

Lebin St. John ▼
California
Yew, 2007





▲ Del Stubbs
Minnesota
Almond, 2008

Jögge Sundqvist ▼
Sweden
Lilac, 2007





▲ Wille Sundqvist
Sweden
Lilac, 2009

Erno Szentgyorgyi ▼
New York
Jelutung, 2006





▲ Masonari Takeuchi
Japan
Chestnut, 2008

Holly Tornheim ▼
California
Manzanita, 2006





▲ Judy Tripp
Maine
Cherry, 2005

Gerrit Van Ness ▼
Washington
Boxwood, 2009





▲ Randy Van Oss
Florida
Walnut, 2006

▼ Dick Veitch
New Zealand
Kauri, 2006





▲ Jacques Vesery
Maine
Honey Locust, gold leaf, 2010

Amanda Wall-Graf ▼
Oregon
Holly, 2009





▲ David Western
British Columbia
Black walnut, 2006

Jay Whyte ▼
Tennessee
Cocobolo, 2007





▲ Terry Widner
New Hampshire
Teak, 2009

George Worthington ▼
New York
Holly, 2009



A Gathering of Spoons



Spoonmaking has been a respected craft and art form in many cultures for centuries, providing not just utilitarian tools for eating but also revered and powerful ceremonial and symbolic objects. Artists and craftspeople from many walks of life are exploring this ancient tool of daily life and coming up with designs that may hark back to centuries of tradition, but also speak to contemporary life.

A Gathering of Spoons celebrates the resurgence of spooncarving in recent years, showcasing pieces from the spoon collection of Norman D. Stevens, who has provided key support to the development and documentation of the spooncarving revival.