

Albert LeCoff Vitae

ALBERT LeCOFF

***Co-Founder and Executive Director, The Center for Art in Wood
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US***

Albert LeCoff is the co-founder and Executive Director of The Center for Art in Wood, formerly the Wood Turning Center, a Philadelphia-based, international, nonprofit organization focused on advancing the growth, awareness, appreciation and promotion of artists and the creation and design of art in wood and wood in combination with other materials. For over forty years, LeCoff has organized symposia and exhibitions, and with staff, produced over twenty scholarly/pictorial publications focused on wood art. He has presented lectures and panel discussions related to fine wood turned art, craft, and makes a practice of collaborating with diverse art organizations for mutual benefits. A prime example finds LeCoff on the steering committee of a new initiative that kick off in November 2015, called *CraftNOW Philadelphia*.

Albert LeCoff co-founded The Center for Art in Wood in 1986 as a not-for-profit arts and education organization dedicated to promoting public understanding and appreciation of wood art and the experienced and emerging artists of the field. LeCoff, an experienced wood turner, organizes exhibitions, publications, educational events, gallery talks and an annual summer residency program called the Windgate ITE International Residency Program featuring international artists, scholars and photojournalists based at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. In 2011, the organization changed its name to The Center for Art in Wood and moved to the heart of the Old City Philadelphia arts and culture district. The name change reflects the breadth and depth of wood art that artists make and that the Center follows and encourages through exhibitions and publications.

Under the leadership of Albert LeCoff, for over thirty years, the Center has:

- Organized over 100 exhibitions (some of which have toured around the US) to showcase creativity and craftsmanship in wood art;
- Published over 20 catalogues about artists and the art they make from wood;
- Produced 2 DVD's showcasing artists' creativity and the work they make;
- Sponsored website www.centerforartinwood.org
- Published Turning Points magazine and Email newsletter;
- Organized international conferences and regional events focused on wood art;
- Sponsored an annual international residency since 1995 entitled Windgate ITE International Residency Program for competitively-selected wood artists, furniture makers, sculptors, scholars and photojournalists;
- Partnered with more than 30 Philadelphia area schools to present educational programs and hands-on wood turning classes;
- Amassed an international museum collection of more than 1,000 international objects of wood, metal, alabaster and other materials;
- Housed a research library specializing in wood art and related studio craft art, including more than 26,000 photographs, images, books, drawings and artist files used by writers, curators, and film makers;

Awards

- 2011 Tribute from Mayor Michael A. Nutter, City of Philadelphia To Albert LeCoff and The Center for Art in Wood for more than three decades of collaborative and visionary work to create recognition for wood artists and to exhibit their contemporary works of fine art and craft at Philadelphia's newest center for art.
- 2008 American Association of Woodturners, *Lifetime Achievement Award*
- 2003 American Craft Council *Honorary Fellow*
- 2003 Collectors of Wood Art *Lifetime Achievement Award*

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Major Conferences, Symposia, and Exhibitions Organized

- 2017 Fluid Boundaries Symposium, co-organized with The Clay Studio and Moore College of Art and Design under CraftNOW
- 2016 Wood, Revisited
- 2016 Technicalities: Meanings and Methods Symposium and Workshop, co-organized with The Clay Studio under CraftNOW
- 2015 Masters of Craft: Philadelphia's American Craft Council Fellows
- 2014 Bartram's Boxes Remix - traveling exhibition and publication (2015 commences national tour)
- 2011 Turning to Art in Wood: A Creative Journey - the 25th Anniversary of the Wood Turning Center and publication
- 2008 Challenge VII: dysFUNctional exhibition and publication
- 2005 WOOD 2005 a Philadelphia based region-wide celebration of wood art & World Turning Conference co-organized with the Collectors of Wood Art
- 2005 CONNECTIONS: *International Turning Exchange 1995 – 2005*. A two year touring exhibition, publication and DVD.
- 2003 *Cabinets of Curiosities* Touring Exhibition and Publication, co-organized by the Wood Turning Center and The Furniture Society
- 2003 *Furniture Philadelphia* a Philadelphia based region-wide celebration of furniture World Turning Conference co-organized with The Furniture Society and their annual conference.
- 2001 *Wood Turning in North America Since 1930 – Symposium II*, Yale University
- 2001 *Wood Turning in North America Since 1930*, co-organized by the Wood Turning Center and Yale University Art Gallery
- 2001 *Wood Turning in North America Since 1930 – Symposium I*, Minneapolis Institute of Art
- 2001 *Challenge VI – Roots: Insights & Inspirations in Contemporary Turned Objects*, Wood Turning Center and Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art, Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA.
- 2001 *Turned Multiples II*, Wood Turning Center; Craft Alliance, St. Louis; and the Saskatchewan Craft Council, Saskatchewan, Canada
- 1999 *Turned Multiples, Craft Alliance, St. Louis*
- 2001 *allTURNatives: Form & Spirit*, Wood Turning Center
- 1998-2000 *allTURNatives: Form & Spirit*, Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art (Work from the International Turning Exchange [ITE])
- 1997 *Curators' Focus: Turning in Context*, traveling show. Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art
- 1997 *1997 World Turning Conference: Turning Towards the 21st Century*
- 1995-1997 *allTURNatives: Form & Spirit*, Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art
- 1994 *Students, Teachers, Parents Wood Turning Workshop* at the George School and the Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art
- 1994 *Challenge V: International Lathe-Turned Objects*, Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art, followed by a 3 year tour to 11 venues
- 1993 *World Turning Conference: New Perspectives on an Ancient Craft*. Co-sponsored by the Hagley Museum & Library, Wilmington, DE
- 1993 *Art From the Lathe: Selections from the Wood Turning Center and the Hagley Museum*, Hagley Museum & Library, Wilmington, DE. Planned in conjunction with the *World Turning Conference*.
- 1992 *Lathe-Turned Objects: Selections From the Wood Turning Center*. Abington Friends School, Jenkintown, PA

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- 1992 *Lathe-Turned Objects Defined III: Functional and Sculptural*, The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, MA
- 1992 *Revolving Techniques: Clay, Glass, Metal, Wood*. James A. Michener Museum, Doylestown, PA followed by a one-year tour.
- 1991 *International Lathe-Turned Objects: Challenge IV*, Port of History Museum, Philadelphia, PA, followed by a one-year tour
- 1991 *Purpose of the Object: Creating and Collecting*, Port of History Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 1991 *Lathe-Turned Vessels Defined II*, Society of Arts & Crafts, Boston, MA
- 1990 *Crafted Statements*, Craft Alliance, St. Louis, MO (co-curated with Craig Nutt)
- 1990 Use of the Lathe: Ideas for the Classroom, George School, Newtown, PA
- 1990 *Revolving Techniques: Thrown, Blown, Spun, and Turned*, James A. Michener Museum, Doylestown, PA (Coordinating Curator)
- 1990 *Lathe-Turned Wood Vessels Defined*, Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, MA
- 1990 *Pennsylvania Lathe-Turned Objects: Trends, Traditions, Transitions 1700-1990*, Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 1990 *Lathe-Turned Furniture*, Ten Arrow Gallery, Boston, MA
- 1988 *International Turned Objects Show (ITOS)*, Port of History Museum, Philadelphia, PA., followed by a three year tour (Coordinating Curator)
- 1988-89 *Purpose of the Object: Creating and Collecting*, St. Louis, MO (Co-organized Conference)
- 1987-89 *Turners' Challenge I, II, III; Works off the Lathe: Old & New Faces*. Craft Alliance, St. Louis, MO
- 1987 *Turned Objects: A Collection from the Wood Turning Center*. Kipp Gallery, Indiana University of PA
- 1981 *Turned Objects: First North American Exhibition of Lathe-turned Objects*, followed by two-year tour
- 1981 Wood Turning and Reproduction Symposium, Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA
- 1981 Woodworking West, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
- 1979, 1980 WOOD '79, WOOD '80, Purchase, N.Y. (Co-organized)
- 1979 Wood Turning Symposium, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
- 1981 *The First North American Turned Object Show (A Gallery of Turned Objects* publication) in conjunction with the 10th Wood Turning Symposia, Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA
- 1981 "Philosophy & Practice" 10th Wood Turning Symposia, Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA
- 1976-1980 "Philosophy & Practice" Series of 9 Wood Turning Symposia, George School, Newtown, PA

Publications

- Project manager for *Emil Milan: Midcentury Master* (anticipated publication date 2018)
- Project manager for *On the Edge of Your Seat: Chairs for the 21st Century* (2016)
- Project manager for *Masters of Craft: Philadelphia's American Craft Council Fellows* (2015)
- Production, *Robin Wood's Cores Recycled* (2015)
- Production, *YOUR PERSONAL HANG-UPS* (2015)
- Production, *Bartram's Boxes Remix* (2014)
- Production, *Turning to Art in Wood: A Creative Journey* the 25th Anniversary of the Wood Turning Center (2011)
- Production, *Challenge VII: dysFUNCTIONal* (2008)
- Production co-editor, *Cabinets of Curiosities* (2003)
- Production co-editor, *Wood Turning in North America Since 1930* (2001)

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- Organizer and Production Manager, *Challenge VI – Roots: Insights & Inspirations in Contemporary Turned Objects (2001)*
- Organizer and Production Manager, *Papers From the 1997 World Turning Conference, 2000*
- Organizer and Production Manager, *Enter the World of Lathe-Turned Objects, 1997*
- Organizer and Production Manager, *Curators' Focus: Turning in Context, 1997*
- Organizer and Production Manager, *Selection of Papers From the 1993 World Turning Conference, 1997*
- Organizer and Author, *A Focus on Hidden Talent Worldwide*.
Feature column for *Woodturning*, an international magazine published and distributed in England.
- Organizer and Editor, *Challenge V: International Lathe-Turned Objects*, Exhibition Catalog. 1994.
- Organizer and Editor, *Revolving Techniques: Clay, Glass, Metal, Wood*. Exhibition Catalog. 1991
- Organizer and Editor, *International Lathe-Turned Objects: Challenge IV*. Exhibition Catalog. 1991.
- Organizer and Editor, *Pennsylvania Lathe-Turned Objects: Trends, Transitions, Traditions, 1700-1990*. Exhibition Pamphlet. 1990.
- Organizer, Curator, and Editor, *Lathe-Turned Objects*. Catalogue of the *International Turned Objects Show (ITOS)*. 1988.
- Organizer and Editor, *A Gallery of Turned Objects*. 1981.

Lectures

- 2008 Nothing is New, American Association of Woodturners, Richmond, VA
- 2002 *Innovations and Design in North American Wood Turning*, Designing Futures Conference, Perth, Australia
- 2003 *Wood Turning: Turning Back to the Future*, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit
- 2000 *The Wood Turning Center: Roles and Responsibilities of a Non Profit*, Worldwide Woodturning Conference, Puy-Saint Martin, France
- 1998 *From the Center: A Person Vision of Lathe-Turning*, American Craft Museum, New York
- 1998 *Curators' Focus: Turning in Context*, Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX
- 1998 *International Turning: Evolution of Craft to Art*, The Old Jail House Museum, Abilene, TX
- 1996 Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AK. Gallery Talk on *Challenge V: International Lathe-Turned Objects* exhibition
- 1995 Two slide lectures at "Reencounter Europeennes de la Tournerie" - a European turning conference held in France
- 1995 The American Craft Museum, New York, NY. Moderated panel discussion: "Conversations on Collecting: Wood Turning"
- 1995 Arizona State University. Moderated gallery talk on *Turning Plus... Redefining the Lathe-Turned Object III* exhibition

Teaching Experience

- 1986-present gallery talks at The Center for Art in Wood for children, students, groups
- 1985-89 Chestnut Hill Academy, Philadelphia, PA.
Instructor; wood working, theatre set design, construction, Grades 2-12.
- 1973-77 Ashbourne School, Philadelphia, PA.
Instructor; Creative Arts (wood working, drafting, refinishing). Grades 4-12.
- 1973-75 Jewish YMCA, Philadelphia, PA.
Instructor; wood working. Kindergarten-4th grade, senior citizens.

Albert LeCoff Vitae**Education**

1974 B. A., Arts & Crafts, Antioch University, Philadelphia, PA.

1973-75 Two year wood turning apprenticeship, with Israeli Manny Erez, Philadelphia, PA.