

For Immediate Release

October 9, 2014

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John Svenson: For the Love of Wood

Over a lifetime of creating sculpture in many media, John Svenson's work in wood stands out and expresses his love for this living material. The exhibition *John Svenson: For the Love of Wood* begins with a one-day display at the Padua Hills Art Fiesta on November 2, then moves to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

John Edward Svenson's love of nature and mastery of his materials is evident throughout his large body of work, which ranges from small wood carvings to monumental public commissions. A native of the Pomona Valley, he studied art at Claremont Graduate School and worked for many years with sculptor Albert Stewart and artist/designer Millard Sheets. During his prolific career, Svenson produced over 23 sculptures for Home Savings and Loan banks and numerous public works in California and Alaska. The exhibition is sponsored by Maria (Zornes) and Hal Baker, and Svenson Arts.



Sunday, November 2 at the Padua Hills Art Fiesta

Padua Hills Theatre, 4467 Padua Ave., Claremont, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for CMA members. Children under 18 free.

November 8 – February 22, 2015 at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont. Exhibition is open daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Garden admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, \$4 for children and free for CMA and RSABG members.

About the Artist

Over a lifetime of creating sculpture in many sizes and medium, John Edward Svenson has had a love affair with wood. "There is a direct connection to the material, one can observe the grain and understand the life of the tree. If I am lucky, I can express this life and create something of beauty" says Svenson. Understanding natural form through flora and fauna is at the core of his creations.

John began working in wood as a child and never stopped. Unlike materials such as bronze, which require multiple processes, working in wood is time consuming but immediate. The act of carving wood is therapeutic and personal.

John Svenson was born in Los Angeles in 1923 and grew up on a citrus grove in the Pomona Valley. After WWII, the GI Bill allowed him to attend Claremont Graduate School to study art at Scripps and Pomona College. For many years he worked with sculptor Albert Stewart and artist/designer Millard Sheets. During his prolific career, Svenson produced over 23 sculptures for Home Savings and Loan banks and many public works in California and Alaska. His sculpture and medallion work are held in numerous public and private collections in national and international locations. Teacher Albert Stewart and mentor Paul Manship nominated Svenson to the National Sculpture Society in 1966 and he advanced to "Fellow" in 1971.