

HUNTINGTON FRONTIERS

The Huntington Library, Art Collections,
and Botanical Gardens

SENIOR STAFF OF THE HUNTINGTON

STEVEN S. KOBLIK

President

GEORGE ABDO

Vice President for Advancement

JAMES P. FOLSOM

Marge and Sherr Telleen Director of the Botanical Gardens

KATHY HACKER

Executive Assistant to the President

SUSAN LAFFERTY

Nadine and Robert A. Skotheim Director of Education

SUZY MOSER

Assistant Vice President for Advancement

JOHN MURDOCH

Hannah and Russel Kully Director of Art Collections

ROBERT C. RITCHIE

W. M. Keck Foundation Director of Research

LAURIE SOWD

Associate Vice President for Operations

ALISON D. SOWDEN

Vice President for Financial Affairs

SUSAN TURNER-LOWE

Vice President for Communications

DAVID S. ZEIDBERG

Avery Director of the Library

MAGAZINE STAFF

Editor

MATT STEVENS

Designer

LORI ANN ACHZET

Huntington Frontiers is published semiannually by the Office of Communications. It strives to connect readers more firmly with the rich intellectual life of The Huntington, capturing in news and features the work of researchers, educators, curators, and others across a range of disciplines.

INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS:

Matt Stevens, Editor
Huntington Frontiers
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108
huntingtonfrontiers@huntington.org

Unless otherwise acknowledged, photography provided by The Huntington's Department of Photographic Services.

Printed by Pace Lithographers, Inc.
City of Industry, Calif.

© 2009 The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use of the contents, in whole or in part, without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

FROM THE EDITOR

TAKING MEASURE

WITH THE REOPENING OF THE VIRGINIA STEELE SCOTT Galleries of American Art in May, The Huntington has combined two buildings—the Virginia Steele Scott Gallery and the Lois and Robert F. Erburu Gallery—into one expanded space for displaying its growing collection. Visitors who choose to view the works chronologically might end their visit by walking through the doorway of a large room and seeing Sam Maloof's *Double Music Stand and Musician's Chair* (1972) and the monumental *Free Floating Clouds* (1980) by Sam Francis.

The massive canvas by Francis—a recent acquisition measuring 10 by 21 feet—takes up a fair amount of space in a transformed venue for American art that is more than double its previous size. The scale of Maloof's furniture seems to take advantage of the new surroundings; the woodworker made the stand with two racks at the request of his client, a violist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic who wanted to accommodate a second musician. Even the chair comes with plenty of leg and elbow room.

While there is more than enough open space to view the massive Francis painting unobstructed, curators Jessica Todd Smith, Kevin Murphy, and Harold Nelson—along with exhibition designer Stephen Saitas—invite visitors to allow more than one work to occupy their lines of vision as they walk through the galleries.

Sam Maloof was mindful of the connections between seemingly disparate works. The woodworker, who died May 21 at the age of 93, was a passionate collector of all kinds of art in various media—ceramics, glass, paintings, sculpture, and folk and tribal art. Writer Joyce Lovelace (page 12) met with Maloof in January when he was still busy at work, reminiscing about past projects and his friendships with clients and fellow artists. With his loan of the music stand and chair, along with some works that he collected over the years, Maloof shared a legacy that celebrates the sense of community that can be found in making and enjoying art. Maloof's double music stand—functional for a solo performance or duet—serves to remind viewers of the woodworker's individual mastery of his craft and the collaborative spirit that infused it.

MATT STEVENS

Opposite page, upper left: Karl Benjamin (b. 1925), *Number 4*, 1968, oil on canvas, gift of Donald M. Treiman, in memory of his mother, Joyce Treiman. *Right:* Detail from a crate label for Cactus Brand Oranges, Highland Fruit Growers Association, printed by Western Lithographic Co., 1916. *Bottom:* Detail from Thomas M'keever, *A Voyage to Hudson's Bay, During the Summer of 1812* (London, 1819).