



Related Book

The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated 112-page soft-cover book edited by Jessica Todd Smith, Virginia Steele Scott Chief Curator of American Art at The Huntington, and Kevin M. Murphy, Bradford and Christine Mishler Associate Curator of American Art at The Huntington, with an essay by professor and art critic David Pagel. With 85 color and black-and-white illustrations, *Three Fragments of a Lost Tale: Sculpture and Story* by John Frame is published by the Huntington Library Press, distributed by University of California Press, and available for \$24.95 at The Huntington's Bookstore & More, 626-405-2142, e-mail: bookstore@huntington.org.

Related Exhibition

"Born to Endless Night: Paintings, Drawings, and Prints by William Blake Selected by John Frame"

March 12–June 20, 2011 | Huntington Art Gallery, Works on Paper Room

This companion exhibition features 20 Huntington-owned works by William Blake (1757–1827), drawn mainly from The Huntington's collections, specifically selected by Frame for a display to complement "Three Fragments of a Lost Tale: Sculpture and Story" by John Frame."

Related Programs

Meet the Artist: John Frame (Society of Fellows Event)

April 5 and 19 (Tuesdays), noon

John Frame leads a private tour of the exhibition. Open to members of The Huntington's Society of Fellows only. For information about the event or the Society of Fellows, call Judy Plunkett at 626-405-2264.

Artist's Tour

Wed., May 11, 4:30–6:00 p.m.

Join artist John Frame for a private tour of the exhibition, providing a unique opportunity to gain insights into the creative process from the artist himself.

Members: \$15. Non-Members: \$20. Registration: 626-405-2128.

For more information about the artist, visit www.JohnFrameSculpture.com.

THE HUNTINGTON

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MARCH 12–
JUNE 20, 2011

MaryLou and George Boone Gallery,
The Huntington Library, Art
Collections, and Botanical Gardens

THREE FRAGMENTS OF A LOST TALE

Sculpture and Story by John Frame



For 30 years California-based artist John Frame has been creating meticulously carved figurative sculpture from wood, metal, fabric, and found materials that explore metaphysical questions about the meaning of life, the inevitability of death, and the nature of good and evil. In 2006, he began to produce sculptures that are fully articulated, with moveable limbs, fingers, jaws, and eyes, which form the cast of characters captured in “Three Fragments of a Lost Tale: Sculpture and Story by John Frame.” The exhibition is composed of three components: the sculpture, still photographs, and a short stop-motion animated film.

Frame is an avid reader with broad interests, whose work relates to many of The Huntington’s collecting areas—from Shakespeare to William Blake. His immersion in the ideas of the Arts and Crafts movement and related decorative arts, which are a particular strength of The Huntington’s collections, has also influenced his approach. Frame has said that his artistic process is best described by a quote from John Ruskin, a 19th-century English art and social critic who influenced the Arts and Crafts movement: “Fine art is that in which the hand, the head, and the heart go together.”

This latest Frame project had its beginnings in a dream: The artist was jolted awake by what seemed like an unfolding story complete

with cast, scenes, and general direction. It would become his next body of work and, he says, may carry him through the remainder of his life. In that regard, the project continues to evolve; the exhibition offers visitors an opportunity to see it at this stage.

In a related exhibition that runs concurrently, Frame curates a focused display of works by Blake in the Huntington Art Gallery’s Works on Paper Room. Says Frame: “Discovering Blake in my early 20s, I was drawn immediately into a world that was both charming and unsettling, and a body of work that comprised both literature—which was my primary study at the time—and visual art, where I was to find my own life’s work.” The display features about 20 watercolors, etchings, and other works drawn mainly from The Huntington’s collections, including *Illustrations from the Book of Job* and *Songs of Innocence and Experience*.

“Three Fragments of a Lost Tale: Sculpture and Story by John Frame” is funded in part by the Ahmanson Foundation exhibition and educational endowment at The Huntington.

Cover: Mr. R in the Portico. 16 x 16 x 4 in; wood, fabric, glass eyes, and found objects over stainless steel armature. *Photo by John Frame.*

Overleaf: Hand of the Maker. 11 x 6 x 6 in., including base and bell jar; wood, glass, and found objects. *Photo by John Frame.*

Left: O-Man. 24 x 20 x 20 in., including attached base; wood, glass eyes, and found objects. *Photo by John Frame.*

Right: Mr. R with Monk in Poor Tom’s Library. 16 x 6 x 4 in; wood, fabric, glass eyes, and found objects over stainless steel armature. *Photo by John Frame.*

Below: The Tottentanzers Performing the “Palace of Sleep Play.” Twelve figures ranging in size from 7 x 3 x 2 in. to 11 x 3 x 2 in; wood, fabric, glass eyes, gold leaf, wood, hand-colored bronze, and found objects. *Photo by John Frame.*

