

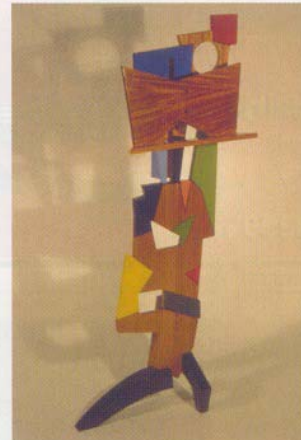
Notes & Comment

This article originally appeared in the February 2003 edition of Taunton's *Fine Woodworking* magazine and is used with permission.

Beautiful music at the Wharton Esherick Museum



One by the master. Esherick built this cherry music stand in 1951 for a local cellist.



Following in Esherick's footsteps. The Wharton Esherick Museum celebrated its 30th anniversary with a competition and exhibition of music stands. From left, Terri L. Cadman's organic piece, "Nature Sets the Tone," won first prize; Brian Kolakowski's jazzy, Picasso-esque "O'Norman" took second; and Ken Christy's "A Stand to Lift the Spirit" received the third-place award.

The Wharton Esherick Museum celebrated its 30th anniversary in September 2002 and used the occasion to award prizes in its ninth annual design contest.

Esherick's sculptural yet functional forms ushered in a new genre of free-form furniture, inspiring the work of Sam Maloof and Wendell Castle, among many other contemporary woodworkers.

In keeping with Esherick's work, the annual competition seeks new, imaginative forms for functional items. This year's theme was music stands, a form Esherick himself experimented with.

From a field of 54 entries, 16 stands were chosen for exhibition, and Terri L. Cadman's "Nature Sets the Tone" won

first prize. The organic, mahogany music stand, with its branchlike base and leaf-shaped desk, looked right at home alongside Esherick's work.

The museum, in Valley Forge, Pa., consists mainly of Esherick's home and studio, which he built and furnished over four decades until his death in 1970. He crafted the building and almost everything in it, from coat hooks and door latches to a built-in serpentine sofa with hidden drawers and a massive, red-oak spiral stairway in the center of the structure. For more information on the museum, which is a National Historic Landmark for Architecture, call (610) 644-5822.

—Tony O'Malley