

About James R. Oleson

Through the years I have taken many art courses and since 1980 I have focused on furnituremaking as my art medium. In recent years I have attended workshops relating to furnituremaking with Rosanne Somerson, Teri Masaschi, Jeff Jewitt, Michael Fortune, and Paul Schürch. My day jobs (astrophysics research, then oncology) have limited my artistic productivity until my recent retirement from professional life.

2010

Mesquite Buffet image published in “500 Cabinets”, Lark Press

2011

Accepted as a member of the Orange County Artists Guild through a jury process

Artist Statement

My joy is designing contemporary functional furniture that has a lightness resulting from emphasis on lines, curves, and balance. I use woods that have intrinsic beauty of color and grain to reinforce the design concept. The function of my furniture is carefully integrated into the design. With each piece I enjoy exploring the use of a new material, technique, or design.

The distinction between art and craft is controversial and blurred. I believe that the quality and uniqueness of the design helps to determine the placement of a work on the continuum from art to craft. I strive to create works that embody with individuality the fundamental principles of art: harmony, rhythm, and balance.

Commissions

With the exception of jewelry boxes and cutting boards which I produce on spec, I design and make furniture for clients on commission. The process begins with your contacting me to discuss the nature of the piece you wish to have designed. I will offer some initial design concepts and drawings and if you do decide to order a piece I will ask for a down payment to cover design and material costs. The final payment is due prior to delivery of the item.

James R. Oleson

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