



Wendy Maruyama

Wendy Maruyama is in the forefront of contemporary studio furniture makers. Her work is characterized by a sense of character and emotion, the bold use of pop culture iconography, and dualities—Eastern/Western, traditional/contemporary, feminine/masculine. In 2008, the Furniture Society presented her the Award of Distinction. She has been the recipient of four NEA Craftsmen's Fellowships and a Fulbright grant to England.

Maruyama is professor emeritus of the Furniture Design and Woodworking Program at San Diego State University, where she began teaching in 1989. Previously she taught at the California College of Arts and Crafts. She was recently an artist in-residence at Anderson Ranch Arts Center, where she focused on creating a digital film to be installed in a new piece of her furniture. From 1994-2000, she served on the board of trustees of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts.

Her educator role has extended beyond the university. She has conducted workshops and served as artist-in-residence in the United States, Europe, and Asia. As the daughter of second-generation Japanese-Americans and a resident of California, her interests and influences have looked west to the Orient for inspiration and insight. She has organized artist exchanges between students at San Diego State and Takumi Jyuku in Takayama, Japan, as well as Hongik University in Korea. Through her work and these educational exchanges, she has expanded the global reach of American studio craft and enriched the range and possibilities of furniture-making for future generations.