

Thomas R. Irvén

Thomas R. Irvén is a wood artist who has been producing custom furniture and woodturnings in his Bellaire, TX studio since 1987. He earned a BS in Business from Ferris State University in Michigan and an MS in Occupational Education from the University of Houston. While at the University of Houston, he met and served a one-year apprenticeship under an English master craftsman. Thomas has taught woodworking and drafting in public and private institutions, and has conducted seminars in woodworking, woodturning, and design. Woodturning has always been a passion for Thomas, and has always played a large part in his furniture making. In 1998 however, turning wood became the primary focus of his work. He is currently teaching classes in woodturning and design, and creating wood turned sculptures and furniture. His recent recognition includes an Award of Merit, the top award, in "Craft Houston 2004: Texas" an exhibition organized by the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft and juried by Lawrence Rinder of the Whitney Museum in New York City. Thomas Irvén's work is also a part of the 2004 Lark Books publication *400 Wood Boxes: The Fine Art of Containment and Concealment*. Thomas was a Niche Award finalist in 2004, 2006, 2010, and again in 2012, and was an exhibiting artist in "Craft Houston 2006: Texas" and "Craft Texas 2008". In 2002 Thomas spent a year as an Artist in Residence at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.