



CBCS 048

Artist/ Maker: Bob Hillvers

Common Name: Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus

Date Acquired: 2023

Age: Est 60+

Evergreen

Style: **Moyogi / Informal upright** The informal upright style is common in both nature and in the art of Bonsai. The trunk and branches incorporate visible curves, but the apex, or tip, of the tree is located directly above the trunk's entry into the soil line. **Sharimiki / Driftwood** This style portrays a tree with a significant part of its trunk bare of bark. In nature, trees in the sharimiki style are created by disease, physical damage to the trunk, weathering, and age. At least one strip of live bark must connect the leaves and living branches to the root system to transport water and nutrients. The bared trunk areas give a strong impression of age regardless of the tree's conformation, so driftwood bonsai often fall outside of the conventional styles in shape and foliage.

Donor: Bob Hillvers

PEDESTAL 2



As unworked material



After initial potting/styling



After recent change of pot angle

From the time a plant is collected from the wild until its ultimate bonsai design is realized can be many years in the making. This California Juniper was collected in the high desert and then had to undergo the careful transformation of its root system to allow it to thrive in a bonsai pot. The selection of what will be its front view, the angle of its trunk and the configuration of its branches is all part of its artistic composition, the result of the artist's vision. Keeping it healthy in all kinds of weather through the seasons and developing the design requires a knowledge of nature and plant science and the sensibility and techniques of an artist. Deadwood is an important aspect of the California Juniper, so treating it with dilute lime sulfur replicates the bleaching of the desert sun as well as protecting it from mildew and pests. This (Left) is what the tree looked like when it was donated to the Clark Bonsai Collection in 2017. You can see for yourself what seven years of hard work and artistic vision has produced.

CBCS 124

Original Artists: CBCS Team working with unworked material

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus californica

Date Acquired: 1/14/17

Age: Unknown

Evergreen

Style: Slanting/Shakan The trunk is straight like that of a bonsai grown in the formal upright style. However, the slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base. Branches will generally parallel the ground, rather than growing at right angles to the slanted trunk.

Donor: Richard Ramirez

PEDESTAL 3



Ray Thieme installing irrigation lines in preparation for exhibition.



Ray's preferred "front" view



Second "front" viewing option

This windswept style bonsai was created by the late Ray Thieme, a local bonsai legend, from an ordinary nursery landscape procumbens juniper, called "Nana" in Japan. He spread the foliage and looked inside the bush and noticed the interesting turns of the trunk and was inspired by images of trees clinging to cliff-sides, continuously blown by ocean winds. While this plant is now only about 50 years old, the artist has created the illusion of great age by stripping bark to create, "shari" deadwood and carving deadwood branches to mimic the whitening of the sun and smoothing of wind and rain into "jins." He planted the tree at an extreme slanted angle and wired the branches to capture the age-old windswept appearance. While bonsai are typically designed to be viewed from a chosen "front," a number of Ray's trees in the Collection have two possible "fronts," allowing for another display option, though Ray had one view he preferred.

CBCS 022

Artist/ Maker: Ray Thieme (See Biography)

Common Name: Procumbens juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus procumbens

Date Acquired: 2/10/12. **Age:** Estimated age 50 years +

Evergreen

Style: Fukinagashi/Wind-swept This style describes a tree that appears to be affected by strong winds blowing continuously from one direction, as might shape a tree atop a mountain ridge or on an exposed shoreline. The windswept characteristic can be applied to a number of the basic styles, including informal upright, slanting, and semi-cascade. Multi-tree bonsai can also be developed with elements of the windswept style.

Donor: Bill Clark



This approximately 300 year old California juniper was collected in the high Mojave desert, but it does not follow any familiar tree pattern. This is an extremely free-form approach to bonsai. Each bonsai expresses the artist's approach to styling. The deadwood which twists in elaborate configurations is all natural. The foliage is styled with careful pruning and wiring to place the branches in the most aesthetic arrangement. A valued characteristic of California junipers is the contrast of the living vein which twists and turns against the bleached deadwood. This particular tree is famous for winning the Ben Oki International Design Award in 1998. Ben Oki was a revered bonsai artist who studied under bonsai master John Naka, considered the "Father of American Bonsai," and became an internationally known bonsai master himself. Sherwin Amimoto, the original artist of this bonsai, was an aerospace engineer, literally a "rocket scientist," and an avid bonsai practitioner with a particular love of California junipers.

CBCS 082 LEGACY COLLECTION Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

This tree won the Ben Oki International Design Award in 1998.

Artist/ Maker: Sherwin Amimoto

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: 10/30/08

Age: Estimated to be 300 years +

Evergreen

Style: Sharimiki/Driftwood This style portrays a tree with a significant part of its trunk bare of bark. In nature, trees in the sharimiki style are created by disease, physical damage to the trunk, weathering, and/or age. At least one strip of live bark must connect the leaves and living branches to the root system to transport water and nutrients. The bare trunk areas give a strong impression of age regardless of the tree's conformation, so driftwood bonsai often fall outside of the conventional styles in shape and foliage

Donor: Linda Amimoto

SPONSOR LINDA JACOBSEN



CBCS 35 LEGACY COLLECTION: Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

Artist/ Maker: Harviche Hanemoto

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: 12/11/23

Age: Collected in the 1970s

Evergreen

Style: **Sokan / Twin-trunk** The double trunk style is common in nature, but is not actually that common in the art of Bonsai. Usually both trunks will grow out of one root system, but it is also possible that the smaller trunk grows out of the larger trunk just above the ground. The two trunks will vary in both thickness and length, the thicker and more developed trunk grows nearly upright, while the smaller trunk will grow out a bit slanted. Both trunks will contribute to a single crown of leaves/ canopy.

Donor: Chuck Nelson



Assembled from nursery stock in 1985.



After repotting 2022

CBCS 103

Artist/ Maker: Richard Ramirez

Common Name: Needle Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus foemina

Date Acquired: 1/14/17

Age: 40+

Evergreen

Style: **Yose-ue/Forest** This style describes a planting of many trees, typically an odd number unless too many to count easily, in a bonsai pot. The pot has very low sides, to emphasize the height of the trees, and may be replaced by a flat slab of rock. The trees are usually the same species, with a variety of heights employed to add visual interest and to reflect the age differences encountered in mature forests. The goal is to portray a view into a forest, and perspective effects, such as placing the smallest trees toward the rear, are important in developing a specimen in this style.

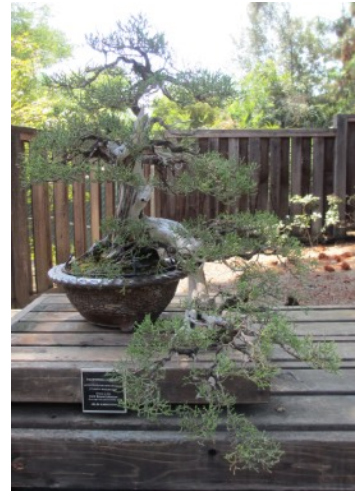
Donor: Richard Ramirez



Unworked Material



After Initial Styling by CBCS Staff.



Developed as a Cascade

This is one of the original bonsai donated to the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture to form a public bonsai collection. It came as “unworked material” as pictured to the above. The most notable aspect of this bonsai is that it is a “natural cascade,” meaning that no “styling” techniques have been applied to the tree in order to create a cascade style bonsai. This is extremely rare. Additionally, all “jins” and “sharis” are natural also, extremely rare as it is common to artificially enhance or supplement “deadwood” features, even on “yamadori.” The cascade style is modeled after trees in nature that grow from banks over water or down the side of a mountain, the apex falling below the base of the pot.

CBCS 109 LEGACY COLLECTION Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

Artist/ Maker: Sam Kawaguchi

Common Name: California Juniper Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: 2016 Age:? Evergreen

Style: Initially Han-kengai/Semi-cascade The apex of the tree extends just at the level of, or beneath, the lip of the bonsai pot. It does not fall below the bottom of the pot. Developed as a **Kengai/Cascade:** A tree living in nature on a steep cliff can bend downward as a result of several factors, like snow or falling rocks. These factors cause the tree to grow downwards. With Bonsai it can be difficult to maintain a downward-growing tree because the direction of growth opposes the tree’s natural tendency to grow upright. Modeled after trees that grow from banks over water or down the side of a mountain, the apex of a (full) cascade style falls below the base of the pot. To give scope for the cascade shape, this style often appears in a tall, slender container not used elsewhere in bonsai.

Donor: Helen Kawaguchi



CBCS 008

Artist/ Maker: Jun Kagawa

Common Name: Juniper ?

Botanical Name: juniperus ?

Date Acquired: 12/11/23

Age:

Evergreen

Style: **Shakan / Slanting** In nature a result of the wind blowing in one dominant direction or when a tree grows in the shadow and must bend toward the sun, the tree will lean in one direction. The trunk is straight like that of a bonsai grown in the formal upright style. However, the slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base.

Donor: Chuck Nelson



This California Juniper is one of the original four bonsai donated to the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, now the Clark Bonsai Collection in Shinzen. This native juniper exhibits a sinuously graceful and unusual “natural” twin-trunk style. California Junipers are collected in the wild, typically the high desert, and due to this harsh and arid environment, thus very slow growing. Based on extensive study, each inch across the widest part of the base represents 75 to 100 years of growth. Because this tree is devoid of telltale elongated hollows indicative of termite activity, this tree could be estimated to be as much as 500 years old. When these trees are very slow growing, the sap turns to resin, resisting insects. When the bark is worn away or damaged through age, weathering, or disease, the branch becomes “deadwood” which is bleached by the sun. This contrast of the white, bone-like deadwood and the dark brown living vein is part of the appeal of this species. The twists and contortions of the branches also contribute to the sense of age and tell the story of the tree’s long struggle for survival in a harsh environment. This is called a Driftwood style because a significant part of the tree is weathered and bare of bark like driftwood.

CBCS 084 LEGACY COLLECTION Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

Artist/ Maker: Sam Kawaguchi Re-styled by David Nguy Dec. 11, 2016

Common Name: California Juniper Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: 3/09

Age: Estimated to be 250-500 years

Evergreen

Style: **Shakan / Slanting** In nature a result of the wind blowing in one dominant direction or when a tree grows in the shadow and must bend toward the sun, the tree will lean in one direction. The trunk is straight like that of a bonsai grown in the formal upright style. However, the slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base. **Sokan / Twin-trunk** This naturally occurring double trunk style is common in nature, but is not actually that common in the art of Bonsai.

Donor: Helen Kawaguchi



This juniper is a good example of how a bonsai can be an artistic work created over a long period of time. In 1991 this large juniper was collected from a garden in Sacramento by Vincent Owyong, who has been growing, designing and styling bonsai for over 50 years. It was planted in a wooden container and just allowed to grow for the next few years. In 2007, Vince reduced the foliage and started to lower some of the lower branches and put some movement in them, slowly changing the profile over the next couple of years. The juniper was finally transplanted into a bonsai pot in 2009 and maneuvering of the branches continued. In 2015, Vincent donated the bonsai to the Clark Bonsai Collection in Shinzen, and Sam Adina, a highly regarded member of a number of bonsai clubs and sensei (teacher) for the Modesto Bonsai Club, made additional adjustments in preparation for the big juniper's trip to Fresno. In 2017, Ryan Neil, internationally known, Nippon Certified bonsai master and CBCS's Visiting Bonsai Master, began his additional styling of the juniper to refine its two-wave windswept style. Fukinagashi is the Japanese term for a Wind-swept bonsai style which describes a tree that appears to be affected by strong winds blowing continuously from one direction over a long period of time, as might shape a tree atop a mountain ridge or on an exposed shoreline.

CBCS 106

Original Artist/ Maker: Vincent Owyong et al Major Re-styling by Ryan Neil 3/1/17

Common Name: Juniper (variety ?) Botanical Name: Juniperus?

Date Acquired: 9/14/15 Age: Est. 80+ years Evergreen

Style: WFukinagashi/Wind-swept This style describes a tree that appears to be affected by strong winds blowing continuously from one direction, as might shape a tree atop a mountain ridge or on an exposed shoreline.

Donor: Vincent Owyong

BONSAI OF THE MONTH: THE OWYOUNG JUNIPER STORY



Vince Owyong has been growing, designing and styling bonsai trees for more than 50 years. Over that time, he has developed his own creative skills and talents in transforming simple plants into works of living art. In addition to leading workshops at various area

clubs and at California Shohin Society seminars, he is also a member of four Northern California bonsai clubs.

In February 1991 Vince and Carl Young collected six very old landscape junipers from a friend's garden in Sacramento. This month's featured bonsai began as one of two that Vince kept and planted in wooden containers and allowed



to just grow for the next few years. Vince was never able to determine the specific variety of the juniper, and the debate about its identity continues. This juniper was the only one to survive the collection and transplanting processes.



In July 2007, Vince reduced the foliage and started lowering some of the branches and putting some movement in them. This was achieved by using chains acting as "guide wires" along with turnbuckles and rebars.

Over a couple of years, by continuous turning on the turnbuckles, the profile slowly changed.

The juniper was transplanted into a bonsai container in April of 2009. The work on maneuvering the branches continued.



In August 2015, Sam Adina, sensei (teacher) for the Modesto Bonsai Club, and a highly regarded member of a number of other California bonsai clubs, made additional adjustments to the branches to get it ready for its trip to the Clark Collection.



Vince with his juniper on the day of its transport to the Clark Bonsai Collection in Shinzen September 24, 2015.

March, 2017, Ryan Neil, the CBCS Visiting Bonsai Master from Bonsai Mirai, began his additional styling to the big juniper to refine its two-wave windswept style.



You can listen to Ryan talk about bonsai design and culture while working on this juniper:

<https://www.facebook.com/BonsaiMirai/videos/1242350819134652/UzpfSTE1OTc0MTgxMDQ6MTAyMDkwOTg0ODk0NTE1MjM/>



This is how the big juniper looks today in 2019 featured in the Conifer Exhibition. You need to take a close look in person to truly appreciate the details of the work that has been accomplished thus far.



Intake Picture 2016



Ryan Neil Restyling 2017.



After Change of front/Restyling

One can only ponder what forces were at work to form this elegant slanting twisted trunk in the harsh environment of the high desert. Apparent in the large portion of “deadwood” on the trunk are extensive “termite runs,” elongated hollows indicative of termite damage. Naive junipers are often the victim of termite infestation, especially on wood that grew quickly and thus was “softer.” Slower growing wood is denser and as it matures is infused with resin from sap trapped in the cells of the wood. Termites cannot digest this resin-infused wood and therefore do not attack it. Lack of termite infestation is often the sign that a particular native juniper was very slow growing and therefore of extreme age, as you can see in some of the other California junipers in this exhibition,.

CBCS 116

Artist/ Maker: Unknown. Restyling by Ryan Neil

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: July, 2016

Age: 200+ years

Evergreen

Style: **Sharimiki / Driftwood** This style portrays a tree with a significant part of its trunk bare of bark. In nature, trees in the sharimiki style are created by disease, physical damage to the trunk, weathering, and age. At least one strip of live bark must connect the leaves and living branches to the root system to transport water and nutrients. The bared trunk areas give a strong impression of age regardless of the tree's conformation, so driftwood bonsai often fall outside of the conventional styles in shape and foliage. **Shakan / Slanting** In nature a result of the wind blowing in one dominant direction or when a tree grows in the shadow and must bend toward the sun, the tree will lean in one direction. The trunk is straight like that of a bonsai grown in the formal upright style. However, the slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base.

Donor: Richard Brustlin



1992 at the Naational Bonsai Museum before the death of the foliage from the secondary trunk



On exhibit at the CBCS in 2023

In 2016 the Clark Bonsai Collection was honored to be chosen to receive this Ernie Kuo California Juniper on loan from the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington D. C. Ernie Kuo is well-known for his artistry, his publications and extensive travel to provide workshops and demonstrations internationally, as well as having his bonsai awarded a number of notable design prizes. This Californian Juniper was collected in 1980 from the Tehachapi Mountains. It is an example of how a bonsai can combine more than one style. Slanting Style Bonsai (Shakan) replicates what happens when environmental conditions in nature result in the tree leaning in one direction. Driftwood or Sharimiki Style portrays a tree with a significant part of its trunk bare of bark. In nature this is created by disease, physical damage to the trunk, weathering and age. The deadwood is bleached by the sun producing a pale contrast to the dark living vein that connects the foliage and living branches to the root system to transport water and nutrients. Twisted Style (Nebican) is when the trunk diminishes in size toward the top and gives the appearance of twisting in upon itself. All of these attributes convey a sense of age and tell the tree's life story and expresses the artist's vision.

CBCS 096

Artist/ Maker: Sze Ern "Ernie" Kuo

Common Name: California Juniper Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica Evergreen

Date Acquired: 3/16 Age: Collected in 1980 from Tehachapi Mts, 8 years in training on 10/1/90

Style: **Sharimiki / Driftwood** This style portrays a tree with a significant part of its trunk bare of bark. In nature, trees in the sharimiki style are created by disease, physical damage to the trunk, weathering, and age. At least one strip of live bark must connect the leaves and living branches to the root system to transport water and nutrients. The bared trunk areas give a strong impression of age regardless of the tree's conformation, so driftwood bonsai often fall outside of the conventional styles in shape and foliage. This bonsai also features slanting and twisted trunks.

Donor: Loaned by National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington DC.

Container: Japanese



One could be forgiven for wondering how this ugly stick in a box could one day become a Bonsai. The journey will be long and the transformation profound. Right now, the trunk has a pronounced lean to it. That will be corrected to a bolt upright position. Few if any of the current branches and foliage will remain, as most will be removed to facilitate the planned design. Nature has already provided this “tree” with much of the character needed for a convincing Bonsai. Some of that character can be seen at the base of the trunk just above the soil line. The future image will be of an ancient snag struggling for existence on some rock outcropping at the very limit of altitude for its species. Surviving the extremes of a savage environment, broken by wind and snow, blasted by lightning, it stands venerable and defiant in the twilight of its life. We invite you to return to watch the transformation of this “ugly duckling” to a breath-taking Bonsai.

CBCS 053

Artist/ Maker: CBCS Staff

Common Name: Sierra Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus occidentalis

Date Acquired: May 2022

Age: Est 150

Evergreen:

Style: Work in Progress

Donor: CBCS purchased from Scott Chad

Container: Wooden Box



This clump style bonsai is a good example of what happens with these trees when they are burned, cut or knocked down but still have healthy roots. In time the stump will produce new branches. With careful tending, pruning and wiring, the resulting bonsai is a living example of nature's capacity for renewal. This coastal redwood bonsai was created and donated by Kenji Miyata, the Clark Bonsai Collection's first Visiting Bonsai Master. Kenji is a Japanese Nippon Certified Bonsai Master who played a vital role in the development of the Collection. Nippon Certification requires many years of rigorous apprenticeship to a Certified Master who can be a harsh taskmaster. The Visiting Master program has brought the knowledge, skill, and artistry of a number of well-known Bonsai Masters to contribute to the continuing improvement of the bonsai in the Clark Collection and the development of the skills of its Curatorial Team.

CBCS 055 LEGACY COLLECTION Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

YAMADORI: literally means "collecting plants in the mountains" but is loosely translated into gathering plants from the wild. The found plant specimen is then carefully and skillfully trained into works of art also known as Bonsai. Yamadori is the most coveted type of Bonsai because of its unique characteristics.

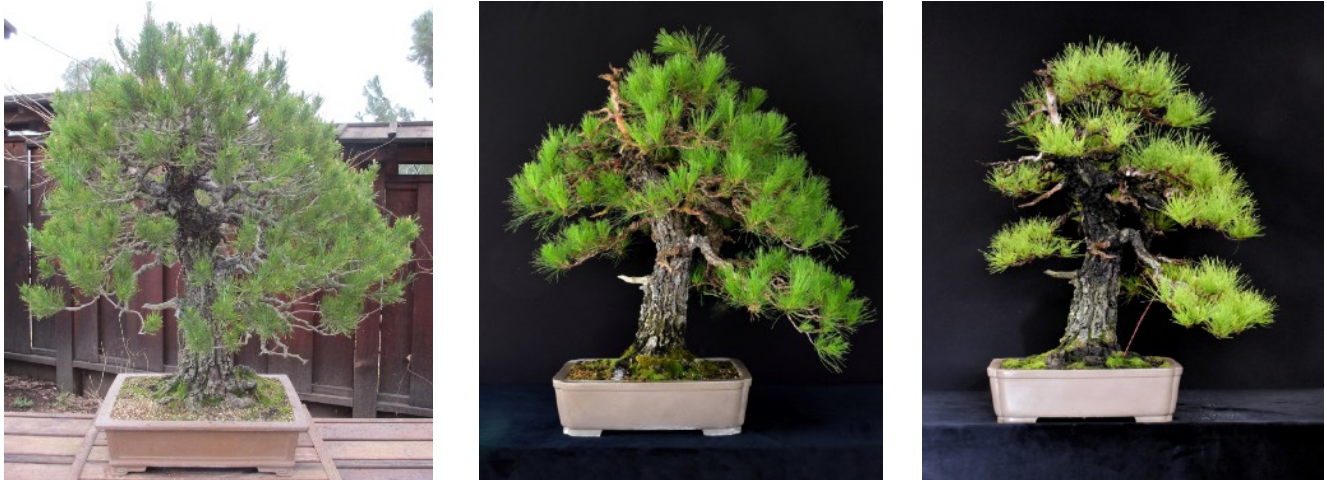
Artist/ Maker: Kenji Miyata

Common Name: Coastal Redwood Botanical Name: Sequoia sempervirens

Date Acquired: 5/2017 Accessioned 9/15/17 Age: ? Evergreen:

Style: **Kabudachi / Clump** In the clump style, three or more (should be an odd number) trunks grow from a single point. The natural equivalent might be a group of trees that have sprouted from a single cone, or a collection of mature suckers springing from the base of a single tree.

Donor: Kenji Miyata



Monterey Pine at the time of its intake, after initial and later restyling by Ryan Neil

The Monterey Pine is the most widely planted pine in the world, being extensively cultivated for timber outside of the United States. Its native range in the US is limited to the fog belt on the California central coast and two small islands off the Pacific coast of Mexico, where wild Monterey Pines are rare and endangered. A fungus introduced from the southern US that causes Pine Pitch Canker is 100% fatal and seriously threatens the survival of native Monterey Pines. Researchers have discovered that some infected trees may recover in time making it possible that selective breeding of trees that have exhibited a natural resistance to the disease may allow the species to thrive once more in its native environment. This bonsai has undergone many stylistic changes during its journey with the artistic guidance of several well known bonsai masters. Wild collected specimens such as this one are extremely rare. It has been cited as the finest Monterey Pine bonsai in existence, making it the rarest of the rare.

CBCS 097 LEGACY COLLECTION Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

Artist/ Maker: Katsumi Kinoshita

Common Name: Monterey Pine

Botanical Name: Pinus radiata

Date Acquired: Summer 2016

Age: ?

Evergreen

Style: Moyogi/ Informal upright The trunk and branches incorporate visible curves, but the apex, or tip, of the tree is located directly above the trunk's entry into the soil line.

Donor: Richard Brustlin

TOKO-KAZARI

The tokonoma is a classic feature of a traditional Japanese home or tea house with tatami floors, sliding doors and the paper covered sliding windows or shoji. Quite simply, the tokonoma is a raised alcove providing a special space, in which carefully selected items are displayed, such as ikebana, bonsai, a favored piece of pottery, or an artistic or calligraphic scroll. Tatami flooring would be impractical for our use of the CBCS “tea house,” but the tokonoma does have the traditional tatami.

History: Prior to about 1190, the focal point of a priest's home was a private altar or butsudā. During the Kamakura Period (1192-1333), the narrow butsudā alcove, with its altar table, flowers and Buddhist scroll, was adapted and transformed into a more secular alcove in which works of art could be displayed. Gone was the incense burner, and the votive candle, and these were replaced with treasured items of art: hanging scroll, bonsai, accent plant, suiseki or ornament. The tokonoma is not fixed through time. The art displayed will be changed, as regularly as the seasons or for a special occasion. (<https://www.japanvisitor.com/japan-house-home/tokonoma>)

Another architectural feature of the tokonoma, however modest in its construction, is that on one side it will be bordered by a pillar or raw trunk of wood often with distinctive grain or slightly protruding texture. In the Clark Collection tokonoma, the pillar is an old, soot-stained bamboo post from a Japanese farmhouse.

“Toko-Kazari” is a coined term used to identify an artistic, harmonious display in a tokonoma. The word “kazari” in Japanese means “to display.” The creation of a toko-kazari has many Japanese rules and traditions. In the West, we can show our bonsai in the traditional Japanese style or allow more flexibility and display with more western style and themes.

SUMMER TOKONOMA DISPLAY

A tokonoma, typically found in a traditional Japanese home or tea house, is a recess or alcove, often a few inches above floor level, for displaying flowers, art and/or ornaments. The typical display features a harmonious, usually seasonal, arrangement of a hanging scroll, and a bonsai, chabana (simple flower arrangement) or suiseki (special viewing stone). Three point displays include an accent that may be a complementary small plant, stone or sculpture.

HANGING SCROLL: "Kingfisher & Summer Grasses"

Donor: Chuck Nelson

The kingfisher is referred to as the "kawasemi" in Japan and has unique cultural significance. It is regarded as a protector of harmony, a sign of good fortune, and a shield against mishaps. It is associated with summer because you're most likely to see them after breeding season when they've got more mouths to feed. People admire the Kingfisher's fishing skills: it is patient, agile, and quick.

WATERFALL SUISEKI (Viewing Stone)

Donated to the CBCS by Harry Hirao Estate

DAIZA (Carved Base) Donor: Bob Hilvers

Collected by Harry Hirao in the Sierra foothills around Murphys, California. Suiseki are not just any stones found in nature; they must be expressive and have a special shape, color and texture to be categorized as suiseki.

SHITAKUSA OR ACCENT PLANT: Flowering Succulent

Ledebouria socialis or wood hyacinth,

SUMMER TOKONOMA DISPLAY

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SHITAKUSA OR ACCENT PLANT:

Flowering Succulent

Ledebouria socialis or wood hyacinth,



The Sierra Juniper, *also* known as the western juniper, is native to the western United States, growing in mountains at altitudes up to 10,000 feet. At these high altitudes, they are slow-growing and snow-covered about 5 months of the year. This tree was collected by Scott Chadd in 2003 when it was a shrub about 5' in diameter. He estimated it to be 200-300 years old when he gathered it from the Tahoe National Forest. In 2018 Scott donated it to the GSBF Convention where Internationally known bonsai master Bjorn BJORHOLM styled it. More work was done later when Bjorn visited Scott's Lotus Bonsai Nursery. Scott and Bjorn put it in this big bonsai pot, leaving room for the material beneath what can be seen. The bonsai was purchased in May, 2022 and the CBCS' current visiting bonsai professional consultant, Scott Chadd, worked with Curator Bob Hilvers to re-style it, changing the "front," but following Bjorn's original design plan.

CBCS 031

Artist/ Maker: Bjorn BJORHOLM/Restyling by Todd Schlafer (See Biographies)

Common name: Sierra Juniper Botanical Name: *Juniperus occidentalis*

Date Acquired: May, 2022 Age: Est. 200-300 years

Evergreen:

Style: **Shakan / Slanting** In nature a result of the wind blowing in one dominant direction or when a tree grows in a shadow and must bend toward the sun, the tree will lean in one direction. The slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base.

Donor: CBCS Purchase from Lotus Bonsai Nursery

See You Tube Video of Re-styling in May, 2022



This is not a Bonsai, but it will be someday. This is how some Bonsai get started. At one point in its life, this Juniper was a landscaping plant. Long ago it was dug up and placed in this box to train the roots for life in a container environment. Then for unknown reasons, it was forgotten and left to its own devices to survive. Discovered in a neglected back yard by noted Bonsai practitioner, Mel Ikeda, who recognized the character it had gained over the years of neglect, donated it to the Clark bonsai Collection. It is now on a prescribed regimen of watering and fertilizing to restore its health and vigor. It has also had some preliminary work done to identify live sap-bearing tissue, reddish-brown, from that which has died, grayish white, along the reclining trunk. The next step in this Juniper's journey to becoming a Bonsai is to move it from the wooden box to a Bonsai training pot, sometime early next Spring.

CBCS 051. A Work in progress

Artist/ Maker: Mel Ikeda

Common name: Prostrata Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus prostrata

Date Acquired: Oct. 2023

Age:

Evergreen:

Style: **Han-kengai / Semi-cascade** The semi-cascade style, just like the cascade style, is found in nature on cliffs and on the banks of rivers and lakes. The trunk grows upright for a small distance and then bends downwards/sideways. The apex of the tree extends just at the level of, or beneath, the lip of the bonsai pot. It does not fall below the bottom of the pot.

Donor: Mel Ikeda

Container: Wooden Box



This rosemary bonsai began its life as an overgrown bush in Gene Nelson’s yard. Gene was a member of the curatorial team who saw its potential as a bonsai. The CBCS team worked together to transition it into a bonsai pot and shape its unwieldy branches. It is still a work in progress, requiring some extra support for its slanting trunk and more wiring and pruning in its future to refine its design. The Latin name for Rosemary is *Rosmarinus officinalis*, which translates to “mist of the sea,” as its gray-green foliage is thought to resemble mist against the sea cliffs of the Mediterranean, where this species originates. Rosemary is an attractive evergreen shrub with needle-like leaves and brilliant blue flowers. The delicate flowers of Rosemary persist through spring and summer, filling the air with a soothing fragrance. In its natural habitat it blooms almost all year, commonly being used in ornamental plantings for landscaping. Rosemary has interesting, fibrous bark, which it sheds partially making deadwood that makes it look very old and interesting even when it is still young.

CBCS 95

Artist/ Maker: CBCS Staff

Common Name: Rosemary Botanical Name: *Rosmariuns officunalis*

Date Acquired: 3/31/21 Age: ? Evergreen

Style: **Shakan Slanting** In nature a result of the wind blowing in one dominant direction or when a tree grows in the shadow and must bend toward the sun, the tree will lean in one direction. The trunk is straight like that of a bonsai grown in the formal upright style. However, the slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base.

Donor: Gene Nelson



2024

This is a California juniper collected in the Jawbone Canyon area of the high Mohave desert. The question most frequently asked by visitors is “What is the oldest bonsai?” The answer is always a guess, except for the very few bonsai in the Collection that were grown from seed. The rule of thumb for estimating age in California junipers, depending on their environment, is that the diameter of their trunk will increase by about an inch every 75-100 years, so this one is quite old, about 1000 years. However, it has only been a bonsai for about 5 years, making it both one of the oldest trees and one of the youngest bonsai. Its twisting and contorted deadwood is a testament to its age and struggle for survival, both of which are highly valued by bonsai artists. The absence of termite runs and worm holes is further evidence of its age because very old, slow growing California junipers have very hard wood and high resin levels that protect the tree from these invaders. The collector and artist is David Nguy, well-known for his work with California junipers and black pines. His training includes studying with some of the internationally foremost bonsai artists. He is known for his skills and advanced techniques found in his signature trees. The Bonsai Jidai Nursery created by he and his wife June is located in Chino, California.

CBCS 026

Artist/ Maker: David Nguy

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus californica

Date Acquired: April 2016

Age: Estimated 850-1000 years

Evergreen

Style: **Slanting/Shakan:** The trunk is straight like that of a bonsai grown in the formal upright style. However, the slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base. **Driftwood/Sharimiki:** This style portrays a tree with a significant part of its trunk bare of bark. In nature, trees in the sharimiki style are created by disease, physical damage to the trunk, weathering, and age. At least one strip of live live bark must connect the leaves and living branches to the root system to transport water and nutrients. The bared trunk areas give a strong impression of age regardless of the tree's conformation, so driftwood bonsai often fall outside of the conventional styles in shape and foliage.

Donors: David and June Nguy



Transformation of style from intake to traditional to contemporary bonsai style.

This Olive bonsai was selected as a subject to explore the differences between its original traditional styling and a more contemporary approach chosen by Visiting Bonsai Master, Ryan Neil. As a bonsai museum, we strive to offer our visitors the opportunity to experience different interpretations of the aesthetics of bonsai including the evolving trends in style over time. The original, very traditional styling (left) suggested stability and a passive strength, while the re-styled more contemporary style (right) is made more dramatic and dynamic by accentuating the features of the battered trunk. Which is the better bonsai? That is, as with all art, left to the eye of the beholder.

CBC 143 YAMADORI literally means “collecting plants in the mountains” but is loosely translated into gathering plants from the wild. The found plant specimen is then carefully and skillfully trained into works of art also known as Bonsai. Yamadori is the most coveted type of Bonsai because of its unique characteristics.

Original Artist/ Maker: Chuck Nelson Restyled by Ryan Neil

Common Name: Olive Botanical Name: *Olea europaea*

Date Acquired: 4/2017 Age: ? Evergreen

Style: Shakan/Slanting In nature a result of the wind blowing in one dominant direction or when a tree grows in the shadow and must bend toward the sun, the tree will lean in one direction. The trunk is straight like that of a bonsai grown in the formal upright style. However, the slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base.

Donor: Chuck Nelson



Intake in 2016



In 2022 after a change of pot, "front" & styling

This California Juniper was created by Masayuki Ikeda whose businesses included farming, carpentry, a poster company, Salinas Farms and the first bonsai nursery in the LA area. He is thought to be the first to use procumbens "Nana" juniper for bonsai, which has become one of the most common species for bonsai production in the US. He collected California junipers beginning in the 1960's in the San Bernadino Mountains. This bonsai was donated to the Clark Collection by his son, Mel Ikeda, who became famous in the world of bonsai in California as both an artist and teacher. This bonsai is part of the Legacy Collection, bonsai created by Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist, in so far as that is possible, to provide an historical perspective on the art form in keeping with our mission as a bonsai museum. It is also a "yamadori" which in Japanese means "collected in the mountains" but is loosely translated into gathering plants from the wild. Yamadori is the most coveted type of bonsai because of the unique characteristics created by its natural environment.

CBCS 125 LEGACY COLLECTION Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

YAMADORI: literally means "collecting plants in the mountains" but is loosely translated into gathering plants from the wild. The found plant specimen is then carefully and skillfully trained into works of art also known as Bonsai. Yamadori is the most coveted type of Bonsai because of its unique characteristics.

Artist/ Maker: Masayuki Ikeda

Common Name: California Juniper.

Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: FBS Yard Sale 12/2016. Age: Collected in the 1960's from the Tehachapi Mts.

Evergreen:

Style: **Shakan / Slanting** In nature a result of the wind blowing in one dominant direction or when a tree grows in the shadow and must bend toward the sun, the tree will lean in one direction.

Donor: Mel Ikeda



The original unworked form (pictured above left) of this Sierra Juniper collected from the wild (yamadori) featured a bolt upright stout trunk, and a single heavy and sinuous branch surrounded by disordered secondary branching. One of the challenges in the art of Bonsai is to bring order to disorder, harmony to disharmony. The image you now see cleverly combines several design principals to achieve a visually harmonizing yet dynamic bonsai. The upright trunk was inclined ever so slightly to the right, thus giving an uninteresting straight line some interest...and creating a bit of tension to counterbalance the heavy primary branch to the left. The undulating primary branch was brought down to provide directionality to an otherwise static composition and provide a sense of dynamic movement. The result, a visually interesting yet harmonious composition – the very soul of the art of Bonsai.

CBCS 027

Artist/ Maker: Ryan Neil

Common Name: Sierra Juniper Botanical Name: Juniperus occidentalis

Date Acquired: November 2017 Age: Evergreen:

Style: **Informal Upright / Moyogi:** The trunk and branches incorporate visible curves, but the apex, or tip, of the tree is located directly above the trunk's entry into the soil line. **Sharimiki / Driftwood** This style portrays a tree with a significant part of its trunk bare of bark. In nature, trees in the sharimiki style are created by disease, physical damage to the trunk, weathering, and age. At least one strip of live bark must connect the leaves and living branches to the root system to transport water and nutrients. The bared trunk areas give a strong impression of age regardless of the tree's conformation, so driftwood bonsai often fall outside of the conventional styles in shape and foliage.

Donor: Scott Chadd



The original artist, Wayne Takayasu, immigrated from Japan in 1957. Some time later, he became interested in the art of bonsai and had the good fortune to meet John Naka, considered the “Father of Bonsai in America,” who became his “sensei” (teacher). Wayne’s favorite species was the California juniper and other “yamadori,” trees collected from the wild. He had the honor of having one of his bonsai selected for the John Naka Bonsai Pavilion at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC. California junipers are particularly valued for their look of age and the appeal of the often twisting and contorted combination of bleached deadwood and the dark vein that sustains the life of the tree.

CBCS 100 LEGACY COLLECTION Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

Artist/ Maker: Wayne Takayasu (See History)

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: 1/17 Age: ? Evergreen

Style: **Moyogi/Informal upright** The informal upright style is common in both nature and in the art of Bonsai. The trunk and branches incorporate visible curves, but the apex, or tip, of the tree is located directly above the trunk's entry into the soil line.

Donor: Chuck Nelson



CBCS 017. LEGACY COLLECTION Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

Artist/ Maker: Kenji Miyata ((See Bio))

Common Name: Prostrata Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus prostrata

Date Acquired: 9/14/22

Age:

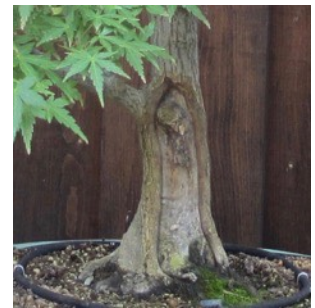
Evergreen

Style: **Han-kengai / Semi-cascade** The semi-cascade style, just like the cascade style, is found in nature on cliffs and on the banks of rivers and lakes. The trunk grows upright for a small distance and then bends downwards/sideways. The apex of the tree extends just at the level of, or beneath, the lip of the bonsai pot. It does not fall below the bottom of the pot.

Donor: Bob Hilvers



This Japanese Maple was one of the early donations to the Clark Bonsai Collection from Kathy Boomsma, a bonsai artist and collector from Los Osos, CA. It was not in the best of health. Over the past 16 years, the CBCS team has been improving its structure, but the large flat scar on the front of the trunk was not adding much to the overall aesthetics of the tree. In 2018, as part of the Visiting Masters Program, Will Baddeley, a bonsai carving expert from Great Britain, came for a weekend workshop. One of the tasks he was given was highlighting the undistinguished trunk with some knotholes that would appear to have happened naturally over a period of many years, making this a more interesting and older looking tree.



Before Carving

CBCS 012

Artist/ Maker: Kathy Boomsma

Common Name: Japanese Maple

Botanical Name: Acer Plamatum

Date Acquired: 5/10/06

Age: Estimated age 40 years +

Deciduous / Evergreen: Deciduous

Style: **Chokkan/Formal upright** The tree has a straight, upright, tapering trunk. Branches progress regularly from the thickest and broadest at the bottom to the finest and shortest at the top. This gives the branches a triangular shape and symmetry which is sought after for a formal upright style. There should be strong surface roots visible, moving from the base of the trunk downward into the soil, and radiating evenly around the trunk (preferably with none pointing directly toward the viewer).

Donor: Kathy Boomsma



2021



2024

Humenori and Kioko Hatanaka were extremely talented Japanese American pioneers of the early practice of bonsai in the US. We don't know which one or if both created this bonsai by grafting Shimpaku foliage onto a prostrata juniper twin-trunk. Grafting is used for a variety of purposes: to add a branch in a specific place for compositional reasons, to replace foliage with a preferred variety, to enhance the roots or to create a new tree combining desired characteristics of both plants, as is the case with this bonsai. Shimpaku has finer, more attractive foliage than prostrata, which can have strong trunks and well distributed branches. Stripping the bark to create deadwood *sharis* and thinning branches to create *jins* add to the look of age. Artists use these techniques to replicate what nature does over a long period of time.

CBCS 098

Artist/ Maker: Original Artist: Hatanakas. Restyling Bob Hilvers & Julian Tsai

Common Name: Prostrata Juniper Trunk & grafted Shimpaku Juniper foliage

Botanical Name: Juniperus Prostrata & Juniperus Chinensis

Date Acquired: June 2021

Age: Given provenance, estimated age 50+ years

Evergreen:

Style: Twin Trunk / Sokan. Two trunks rise from a single set of roots. The base of the trunks generally touch and may be joined to each other up to a short distance above the soil. One trunk is usually taller and thicker than the other, both are clearly visible from the bonsai's front.

Donor: Bob Hilvers

**CBCS 001****LEGACY COLLECTION****SPONSOR: Helen Kawaguchi**

This Needle Juniper forest is one of the original four bonsai that formed the beginning of the Clark Center Bonsai Collection. Created by the late Sam Kawaguchi, a Japanese American bonsai artist, this bonsai was also the first to be included in the Legacy Collection. This forest bonsai was a favorite of Bill Clark, founder of the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, the original home of the Clark Bonsai Collection dating back to 2004. Due to its favored status and popularity with visitors, this classic bonsai forest was on continuous display in the number one position in the exhibit. This style entails the planting of many trees, typically an odd number. The pot has very low sides, to emphasize the height of the trees. A variety of heights is employed to add visual interest and to reflect the age differences encountered in mature forests. The goal is to portray a view into a forest using perspective effects. This forest bonsai was inspired by the redwood forests of the region's national parks, including the carving the top of the tallest tree to look like the result of a lightning strike. After 14 years on display, the secondary tree died and the forest required re-arranging and restoration, which are only in the early stages at this time. Bonsai is a unique art form because it is alive and therefore can change and even die. While we strive to maintain the artistic integrity of our legacy bonsai, they are living things and therefore ever-changing and never "done."

Artist/ Maker: Sam Kawaguchi (See Artist Biography)

Common Name: Needle Juniper Botanical Name: Juniperus foemina

Date Acquired: 5/14/04 Age: Age of oldest tree approx. 60 yrs.

Evergreen

Style: Yose-ue/Forest Group This style describes a planting of many trees, typically an odd number unless too many to count easily, in a bonsai pot. The pot has very low sides, to emphasize the height of the trees. The trees are usually the same species, with a variety of heights employed to add visual interest and to reflect the age differences encountered in mature forests. The goal is to portray a view into a forest,

Donor: Helen Kawaguchi