



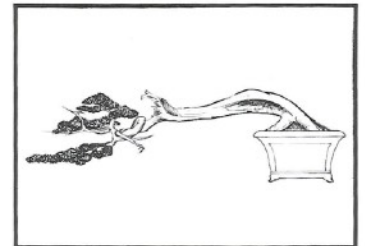
After Todd Schlafer Styling 2022



2025

WILD THING! This California Juniper was collected from the Sand Canyon area in the early 1970's by none other than the legendary John Naka and his friend and collecting companion Professor Howard Latimer of California State University Fresno. Its unusually long, horizontal trunk contrasts with the typically upright shape found in this desert species. Understanding the harsh habitat where this native juniper survived sheds light on the reasons for its form. Found clinging to a rock face, it endured desert heat, nutrient-poor soil and persistent drought. Perpetual assault by high winds, that shaped its low profile and scoured its sun-bleached trunk with blowing sand that relegated the foliage to small tufts, offers us a glimpse into a lifelong struggle for survival in an unforgiving environment.

This California juniper was collected from Sand Canyon in 1978 by John Naka and Howard Latimer, retired Botany professor from CSUFresno and a long-time member of the Fresno Bonsai Society and supporter and friend to the Clark Bonsai Collection. Howard collected this juniper with John Naka (considered "The Father of American Bonsai") in 1978 from Sand Canyon in the Tehachapi mountains at an elevation of about 4500 feet. Naka created the original design plan for this bonsai and featured it in the second volume of his seminal book: *Bonsai Techniques II* (1982). In 2019 it traveled along with three other CBCS bonsai to Bonsai Mirai in Oregon where Ryan Neil, internationally known bonsai master and former CBCS Visiting Master, featured it in one of his live streamed programs, restyling it in keeping with John Naka's original design plan illustrated in the book with his



CBCS 066 YAMADORI

Artist/ Maker Howard Latimer/John Naka/Ryan Neil

Common Name: California juniper Botanical Name: juniperus Californica Evergreen

Date Acquired: Spring 2019 Age: Collected in the 1970's Sand Canyon near Tehachapi

Style: 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.

Donor: Howard Latimer



As with many bonsai of *Yamadori* (collected from the wild) origin, we are often presented with shapes and forms sculpted by the hand of Mother Nature. This California Juniper arouses our curiosity regarding the unusual twists and turns in the upper portions of the trunk. How did they occur? Are these undulations natural or created? A discussion with the original artist resolves the mystery: The trunk's natural movement formed as this Juniper grew near another tree. In a remarkable adaptation for survival, this Juniper simply grew around the branches of the other tree to reach sunlight, leaving a permanent record of its struggles in the shape of its trunk.

CBCS 082 YAMADORI 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: Sherwin Amimoto (See California Juniper Collecting article)

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



The appeal for Bonsai artists in utilizing plants collected from the wild (Yamadori) lies in their ability to vividly represent the natural environments from which they originate, often embodying both dramatic form and a sense of great age. In this California Juniper we see the image of an ancient “snag” on some rock outcropping at the very limits of altitude for its species, struggling for survival in the twilight of its life. It has been battered by storms, lightning strikes have striped its bark, ravaged by insects, broken by winter snows, yet it endures. Vibrant foliage is evidence of its resilience and tenacity of life. We are touched by and revere such spirits that transcend our own short lifespans.

CBCS 100 YAMADORI 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

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.

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.

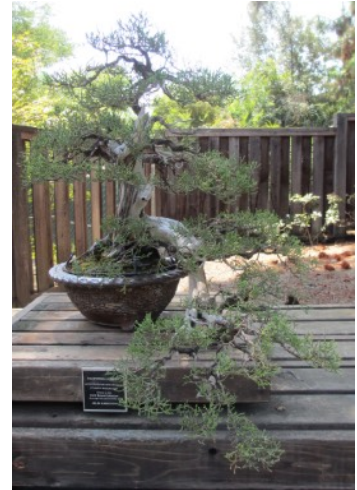
Donor: Chuck Nelson



Unworked Material



After Initial Styling by CBCS Staff.



Developing 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 left. 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



This native California Juniper has had its original appearance heavily manipulated by artistic interpretation. Although the foliage is neatly arranged and the branches are precisely wired into a pleasing image the lower trunk, which is large, compressed, and deformed, shows characteristics that differ from those of the thinner, elongated upper trunk and are undeniably wild. We wonder what ravages of time and environment could create such a form. The large and disfigured base hints that perhaps once, there was an additional larger trunk that split away during some natural disaster, leaving a lower much younger branch to form the present trunk. We will never know for sure. Nevertheless, it offers us a compelling image of how nature and art are combined to create an intriguing bonsai.

CBCS 006 YAMADORI SPONSOR: AMY HILVERS

The original source for this plant is believed to be a collecting expedition to the Mojave desert that included Harry Hirao.

Artist/ Maker: Richard Ramirez. Total restoration by Bob Hilvers and museum staff; Re-styling and reorientation by Ryan Neil 12/18

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: 5/20/09

Age: Estimated age 500 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 though this bonsai might also be considered **Informal Upright/Moyogi**, a style 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: Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture



This small California Juniper offers some insights into how plants collected from the wild are used to create Bonsai. Employing the naturally twisting/diagonal reach of this California Juniper with carefully selected trunk angles and orientation, the artist created a feeling of dynamic tension and instability. Arranging the branches and foliage in an asymmetrical form, off-center from the trunk creates visual drama. The choice of a bold yet elegant container provides unexpected balance, making the composition visually striking and appealing. Revealing how this “wild” plant became a Bonsai under the hands of a talented artist.

CBCS 125 YAMADORI

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: Masayuki Ikeda (Mel Ikeda's father)

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: FBS Yard Sale 12/2016

Age: Collected in the 1960's from the Tehachapi Mountains

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: Mel Ikeda



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

CBCS 055 *LEGACY COLLECTION*

Artist/ Maker: Kenji Miyata

Common Name: Coastal Redwood Botanical Name: Sequoia sempervirens

Date Acquired: 5/2017 Accessioned 9/15/17

Age:

Deciduous / Evergreen: 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



If you look very closely within the scar, you can see the top of the original trunk.

Hardly the image of graceful lines and precisely arranged foliage pads, this rugged and imposing Coast Live Oak exudes an aura of past disaster that irrevocably disfigured its misshapen trunk. Nicknamed the “Del Monte Ogre” by staff of the old Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture one can only wonder what terrible event befell this tree. Looking closely at the interior of the massive scar on the front of the trunk, the remnants of the original trunk are still visible. Did a powerful, ancient storm break this tree off at its base? Was there a rockslide that caused heavy boulders to smash all in their way? Did another tree fall and crush it? There is no way for us to know. We do know that somehow this tree overcame hardship in what must have been a life-threatening experience, offering us one more glimpse into the myriad forms wild trees offer the Bonsai artist.

CBCS 011 “The Del Monte Ogre” YAMADORI Sponsor: Rick Dyck

Artist/ Maker: Katsumi Kinoshita (See Bio)

Common Name: Coast Live Oak Botanical Name: Quercus agrifolia

Date Acquired: 4/10/09

Age: Estimated age 100 years +

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. t

Donor: Katsumi Kinoshita



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. Native 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 YAMADORI

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



Believed to be a Phister Juniper, this is not a tree collected from the wild. It started life as part of a hedge row in Sacramento. Years of artistic skill have turned this backyard juniper into a bonsai that looks as if it came from the wild. Given a wind influenced shape coupled with the judicious use of intentionally created “deadwood” and one could be forgiven for thinking that they are looking at a coastal Juniper collected from the sand dunes of some windswept shore. It is an example of how art imitates nature and offers a comparison to those bonsai created from trees collected in the wild, where nature becomes art.

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.

CBCS 106 URBAN YAMADORI SPONSOR. Linda Jacobsen 3/25-3/26

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

Common Name: Phister Juniper Botanical Name: *Juniperus x pfitzeriana* (a hybrid, often resulting from crosses between *Juniperus chinensis* and *Juniperus sabina*)

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

Donor: Vincent Owyong



This California Juniper is believed to be well over 1,000 years old. While there is no definitive way to determine its exact age, other than destroying it to count its growth rings, we do have some empirical data that allows us to make an educated guess. For example, some slow growing California Junipers evidenced by the lack of termite damage due to resin infused wood, have been demonstrated to be as much as 100 years old per inch of trunk diameter. This Juniper has no termite damage and a trunk diameter, at its narrowest point of 9 inches, and at its widest point of 21 inches. We might wonder, was this tree a seedling when a group of Viking explorers established a settlement on what is now Martha's Vineyard, or is it possible it sprouted during the Roman occupation of Judea?

YAMADORI: literally means “collecting plants in the mountains” but is loosely translated into gathering plants from the wild. Yamadori is the most coveted type of bonsai because of its unique characteristics.

CBCS 120 SPONSOR: TODD SCHLAFER (4/21/22-4/21/24)

Artist/ Maker: Todd Schlafer. Styling 4/20/22

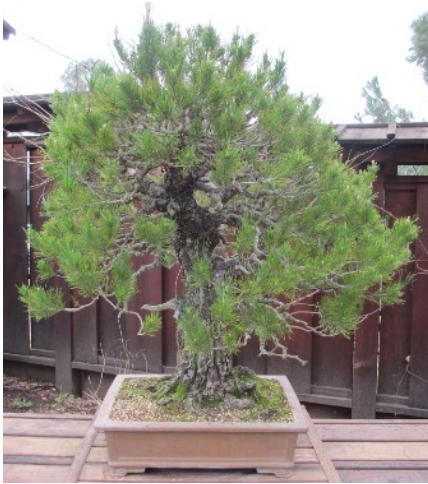
Common Name: California Juniper Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica. Evergreen

Date Acquired: 1/14/17. Donated as Unworked Material Age: Estimated age 1200+

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. While this tree was collected from the desert of the high Mojave, its styling was inspired by the ancient Bristlecone Pines of the White Mountains of the Eastern Sierra's, home to the world's oldest living trees. Some of these gnarled and twisted trees are over 4,700 years old, making them some of the oldest living things on the planet.

Donor: Richard Ramirez





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

Unique in the art of Bonsai, this Monterey Pine was collected from the forests on the Monterey Peninsula making it a quintessential example of the use of *Yamadori* (trees taken from the wild) to create a bonsai. Virtually all other known Monterey Pine bonsai were created from nursery stock. In addition to being a “one-off”, this bonsai also embodies the legacy of Japanese American immigrants that introduced to this country the practice of using collected wild plants as subject material for bonsai. Collected and originally styled by none other than Bonsai auteur and master Katsumi Kinoshita, who uses bonsai to create images that embody the Monterey Forest and shoreline environments.

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



Fall after repotting & new angle

A favorite of visitors and Bonsai professionals alike, perhaps more than any other tree in the Collection, this Bald Cypress embodies its native environment. Just viewing this magnificent Bonsai, transports us to a humid water-world of slow-moving bayous, hanging moss and the occasional alligator. Indeed, it was collected from the Okefenokee Swamp in Florida. Extremely rare in Bonsai, this Bald Cypress displays its distinctive "knees" - raised bumps at the base of the trunk—which were once believed to help supply oxygen to submerged roots. Recent studies indicate that Bald Cypress "knees" collect debris and flotsam from slow-moving bayou water, that accumulates to stabilize the water-logged soil to support the tree.

This bald cypress bonsai was estimated to be 50+ years at the time of its collection from a swamp in Florida by Mary Madison, a friend of Ray Thieme's. On May 5, 2010, it was added to the Clark Bonsai Collection at the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in Hanford. Due to its origin and being somewhat too tall for a bonsai by Japanese standards, it was dubbed the "Swamp Monster." It arrived in a large plastic hod bucket, and required many layers of wood hardener to stabilize the partially hollowed trunk. Ryan Neil has said that he thinks it is the finest example of bald cypress bonsai that he has ever seen. One of its unique features is that it has "knees" which are developed in the slow moving waters of bayous and swamps where these trees thrive. After many years of debate over their possible purpose, it has been concluded that the knees develop to add stability to the tree by the accumulation of detritus flowing by. It is certainly a favorite of visitors. For docent Tessa Cavalletto, it was love at first sight. She dubbed it "Diana Ross" because it reminded her of Ms Ross' silhouette at her famous concert in Central Park. Tessa has "adopted" her favorite bonsai in support of the Collection.

CBCS 016 YAMADORI

SPONSOR: TESSA CAVALLETTO

Artist/ Maker: Original artist is unknown. Current tree styled by museum staff

Common Name: Bald Cypress

Botanical Name: *Taxodium distichum*

Date Acquired: 5/10/10

Age: Estimated age 50 years +

Deciduous

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: Bill Clark

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:

“Sunrise Bird on a Rocky Shore”

Donor: Chuck Nelson

This painting has many symbolic images common in Japanese art. The rising sun symbolizes new beginnings, hope, and the power of life. Water and stone represent opposing yet complementary forces: Water symbolizes fluidity, change, and the life-giving force, while stone represents stability and permanence. Birds in general are associated with freedom and the ability to transcend earthly limitations. Combining these elements, a bird on a rock can represent the balance between freedom and grounding, or the ability to soar while remaining firmly rooted

SUISEKI (VIEWING STONE) Waterfall

Donated to the CBCS by the Harry Hirao Estate

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.

DAIZA (Carved Base) Donor: Bob Hilvers

SHITAKUSA (Accent Plant)

Wood Hyacinth



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. YAMADORI

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



This is one of two Monterey Cypress bonsai in the collection, both notable for their exceptional rarity. There is no source for Monterey Cypress other than to collect them from the wild in a small area on the Monterey peninsula. Only two or three other examples are known, all held by private collectors in the Monterey area. This bonsai features a distinct yet subtle wind-influenced form, characteristic of mature Monterey Cypress found alone or in small clusters by the ocean. Of all known Monterey Cypress bonsai, the two held by the Clark Bonsai Museum are considered to be the finest examples extant.

A NOTE FROM BOB HILVERS, CBCS CURATOR: This is one of my favorite bonsai in collection. It was originally styled by Katsumi Kinoshita, in my opinion perhaps one of the most natively talented bonsai artists in the US. I particularly appreciate Kats' subtle yet definitive "wind influenced" styling of this tree. It captures the very essence of mature Monterey Cypresses that have their upper canopies sculpted by on-shore winds. The original source of this tree was collected from private property in the Del Monte Forest on the Monterey Peninsula, so it is considered Yamadori [literally "collecting plants in the mountains" but is loosely translated into gathering plants from the wild]. As the original artist is Japanese, it is also part of our Legacy Collection which is comprised exclusively of bonsai created by Japanese and Japanese American artists. Kats gifted this tree to the Clark Bonsai Collection some years back when the Collection was located at the old Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture (the original home of the CBM).

CBCS 064 YAMADORI SPONSOR PAUL KOMINERS

Artist/ Maker: Katsumi Kinoshita

Common Name: Monterey cypress Botanical Name: *Cupressus macrocarpa*

Date Acquired: 4/12/ 12

Age: Estimated to be 60 years + (Yamadori)

Evergreen

Style: Wind influenced/Fukinagashi 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 bonsai styles,

Donor: Katsumi Kinoshita



Resembling a wild juniper, battered by the elements, falling into decrepitude...it is not. The origin of this domestic Juniper is much more mundane. Despite its appearance, it is only about 75 years old, having been planted as part of the original landscaping for the Sequoia Auto Theater that opened in 1950. By the late 1990's drive-in movie theaters had lost their appeal and the Sequoia Auto Theater, like so many others, was closed and abandoned. Incredibly a few of the original landscaping Junipers survived the harsh summer conditions and around 2000 this and two others were dug up and converted to Bonsai. It is offered as an example of how Bonsai artists use various techniques to replicate the ravages of time and the elements to create the appearance of an ancient "wild" tree.

CBCS 048 **URBAN YAMADORI:** This juniper was one of several landscape trees collected about 20 years ago by well-known bonsai artists Ryan Neil and Anthony Gallante from the long-deserted Sequoia Drive-in Movie yard in Visalia. They gifted this one to Bob Hilvers, Clark Bonsai Curator, who was not available to join them. While "yamadori" are bonsai collected from the wild, "urban yamadori" are collected from construction sites, urban yards, empty lots and the like.

Artist/ Maker: Bob Hilvers

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 Hilvers



This Monterey Cypress was collected by Katsumi Kinoshita in 1970 on the Monterey Peninsula not long after immigrating from Japan. It was featured in his first place prize winning composition at the international toko-kazari competition at the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in 2002. It's style is reminiscent of the iconic "Lone Cypress" which has stood atop a granite headland overlooking Carmel Bay in Pebble Beach California at least since the 18th century. Kinoshita has been a masterful bonsai artist for over 60 years, serving as a sensei (teacher) for the Monterey Bonsai Society and many other bonsai groups. The Clark Bonsai Collection is honored to include several of his bonsai—all on display in the current exhibition—including this signature bonsai donated on World Bonsai Day 2025.



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.

CBCS 037

Artist/ Maker: Katsumi Kinoshita (See Bio)

Common Name: Monterey Cypress Botanical Name: Cupressus macrocarpa

Date Acquired: 5/3/25 Age: Est 75-100 years. In Training since 1970 Evergreen Conifer

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: Katsumi Kinoshita



Forested mountain slopes with abundant precipitation in the form of rain and snowfall, and nutrient rich soil allow Sierra Junipers to grow at a faster rate than their California Juniper cousins experience. In their harsh and unforgiving desert environment. Although rugged and battered in appearance, this Sierra Juniper is no older than 200 to 300 years. Significantly less than would be expected of a California Juniper of similar trunk diameter. Why then, does it look so old? It was found growing in a shallow depression at an altitude that saw snow remain on the ground well into early summer. Its squat shape and broken, snow-damaged branches reveal a life spent buried and frozen for six months of the year, aging it beyond its years.

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 YAMADORI

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 California Juniper is one of the original four bonsai donated to form the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, now the Clark Bonsai Museum in Shinzen Garden. Helen Kawaguchi donated it in memory of her late husband Sam, who was an aerospace engineer and bonsai artist from Santa Maria. Unusual for native Junipers, it exhibits a sinuously graceful and unusual “natural” twin-trunk style. Devoid of the telltale elongated hollows indicative of termite activity, this tree could be estimated to be five hundred years old, maybe older. The exhibition also features two more California juniper bonsai by Sam Kawaguchi: a needle juniper forest near the entrance and a cascade-style California Juniper.

CBCS 084 SPONSOR DOROTHY CHEU

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: 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 500+ years

Evergreen

Style: **Shakan/Slanting** 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: Helen Kawaguchi



Visitors at the Clark Bonsai Museum often ask about the age of the bonsai trees. "How old is it", is a frequent question. While it is true that a few bonsai are of extreme age, contrary to popular belief, most are not, with some being only a few years old. The concept of age in Bonsai can be described in three ways: 1) their actual age, 2) how long they've been cultivated as bonsai, and 3) how old they appear. Bonsai of extreme age are those created from wild plants that have, in some cases, existed for hundreds of years. The duration for which an individual plant has been cultivated as a bonsai can be just a few years to as many as 500 in some extremely rare examples in Japan. However, a key aspect of Bonsai is creating the image of age through the artist's techniques.

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



Presenting the appearance of a native Juniper collected from the wild, this is one of four bonsai included in this exhibition of “Wild Things” that is not a “wild” juniper at all. The origin of this bonsai was someone’s yard, not a desert or a mountainside. It is a San Jose Juniper, commonly used in landscaping and is an example of “urban yamadori,” a play on the Japanese term Yamadori that is literally translated as “from the mountains,” referring to the ancient practice of collecting wild plants for use as bonsai. The “jins”— broken and dead branches, and “sharis” – portions of exposed wood on the trunk where bark has been stripped away, were all created artificially to mimic the effects of time and the elements commonly seen on ancient wild trees.

CBCS 051. URBAN YAMADORI

Artist/ Maker: Mel Ikeda. (See Bio)

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



Texas Cedar Elm, the most widely spread elm in Texas, typically grows in flat valley bottom areas. The common name 'cedar elm' is derived from the trees' association with juniper trees, for some reason locally known as cedars. In cattle country they are subject to predation resulting in the stripping of their bark, producing deadwood hollows from insect damage, carpenter ants and boring beetles being the most common in the region. We do know that this tree was collected from the wild, but as often happens, this bonsai came to the Collection without much background information. So besides not knowing who the original artist is, we don't know if the hollowed scar along the front of the tree is entirely due to natural predation or if there has been additional carving work by the artist who created this bonsai, inspired by observations of these trees in their natural environment.

CBCS 039

Artist/ Maker: Unknown

Common name: Texas Cedar Elm. Botanical Name: *Ulmus crassifolia*

Date Acquired: July, 2018

Age: ?

Deciduous

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.

Sabamiki Split-trunk, hollow trunk This style portrays the visual effect of a lightning strike or other severe and deep trunk damage, which has been weathered over time. It is applicable to deciduous species, conifers, and broadleaf evergreens. The hollowed trunk is usually chiseled, making a hollow that can range in size from a shallow scar to nearly the full depth of the trunk.

Donor: Kimura Bonsai & Landscape Nursery/FPI Holdings Trust



The Clark Bonsai Museum recently acquired this California Juniper, generously donated by Ted Matson, former Curator of the Bonsai Collection at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. We were fortunate in being able to talk with Ted about the circumstances and location of its collection. It was originally part of a triple-trunk tree growing in the legendary Jawbone Canyon of the Mojave Desert. Ted relates that the recumbent form of this bonsai reflects its position as the lowest trunk of the original tree. Relegated there by its quest to obtain sufficient sunshine for survival in competition with the larger more upright trunks. The ultimate fate of the other trunks is mixed. The most upright trunk separated itself from the other two shortly after collection and was used to create another Bonsai. The middle slanting trunk failed to thrive and eventually died.

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CBCS 28

Artist/ Maker: Ted Matson

Title/plant species: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: March, 2025,

Age: 150 +

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. though this tree has cascade features: **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: Ted Matson



There are over 19 species representing 30 different varieties of Oak native to California. From the rare Island Oak, found only on the Channel Islands to the widely distributed Canyon Oak, Native California Oaks are found in a wide range of habitats from the Mojave Desert to as high as 10,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada mountains. This Coast Live Oak, donated by Harry Hanson to the Clark Bonsai Collection, was collected from the wild in the Santa Cruz mountains. Its compact form and sinuous branches are ubiquitous to native oaks that inhabit the coastal and interior mountains of California. A drive on highway 152 through the Pacheco Pass offers a panoramic viewing experience of the growth habits of several species of California's most distinctive Oaks.

CBCS 42. YAMADORI

Harry Hanson bought this bonsai at auction at Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai in 2010. He lives in Carmel, California and has been collecting and cultivating bonsai for over 60 years. He donated 13 of his bonsai to the Clark Bonsai Collection in Shinzen.

Original Artist/ Maker: Unknown

Common Name: Coastal Live Oak

Botanical Name: *Quercus agrifolia*

Date Acquired: 1/2025. Accssioned 7/2/25

Age: ?

Evergreen

Style: A naturalistic bonsai aims to mimic the appearance of a mature tree growing in nature, rather than adhering to strict traditional bonsai styles

Donor: Harry Hanson



Presenting a somewhat slender and upright trunk that is unusual for a California Juniper, it has clearly shared the hardship common to its species. Believed to have been originally collected from the Jawbone Canyon area, a location often noted as a source for California Juniper bonsai, little else is known about this enigmatic tree. Currently undergoing a period of restoration pending a determination of how its unique features can be used to best advantage in a final design, several more years may pass before its full potential as an important Bonsai will be realized. You can see its humble beginnings in the picture to the left.

CBCS 124 YAMADORI

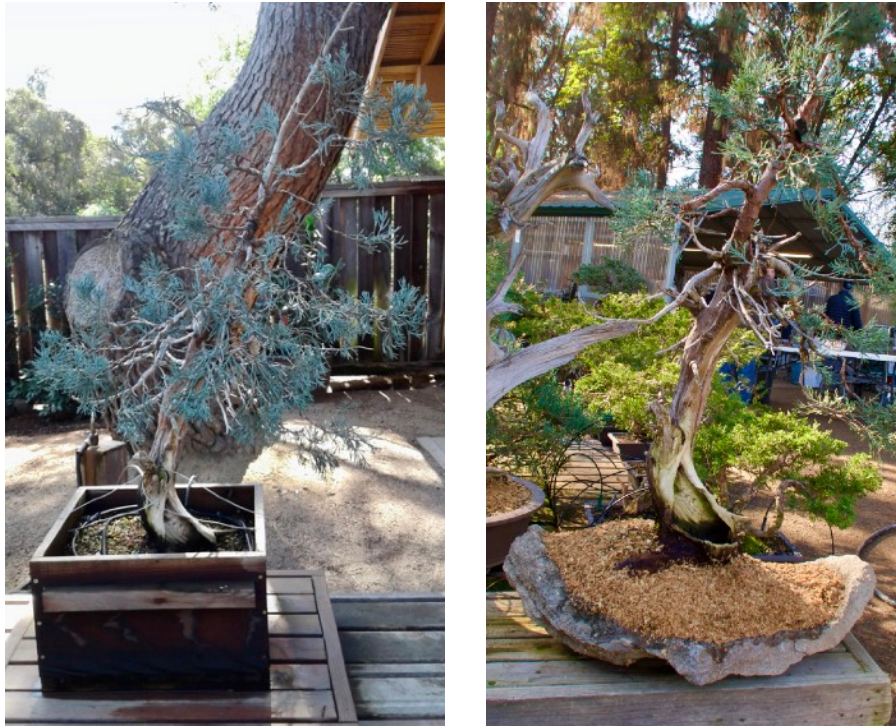
Artist/ Maker: CBCS Staff. (Donated as unworked material)

Common Name: California Juniper Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: 1/14/17 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: Richard Ramirez



PICTURE LEFT-PRE-BONSAI: 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.

WILD THING EXHIBIT, RIGHT We can only wonder what forces were at work to cause the terrible damage evidenced on this Sierra Juniper. Was the hollowed base caused by an ancient fire, charring now long erased by weathering, or did another factor play a role? What terrible event took place that smashed the top of this tree and left it disfigured and stunted? These questions can never be fully answered. Leaving us to marvel at the tenacity of life and unbroken spirit this horribly crippled and misshapen tree exhibits. Does it offer us some perspective on disasters, large and small that impact our own lives? Sometimes, those of us that practice the art of Bonsai find that nature is our first and finest teacher.

CBCS 053. YAMADORI

Artist/ Maker: CBM Staff

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

Date Acquired: May 2022 from Scott Chadd Accessioned 1/21/25

Age: Est 150 Evergreen:

Style: A naturalistic bonsai aims to mimic the appearance of a mature tree growing in nature, rather than adhering to strict traditional bonsai styles

IDonor: CBCS purchased from Scott Chad

Planted on granite slab January 2025 by Todd Schlafer & CBM Team

**CBCS 001****SPONSOR: HELEN KAWAGUCHI**

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 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