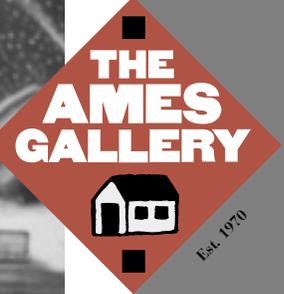




Alex Maldonado.



Alex Maldonado Utopian Visions

Alex Maldonado was a quiet and gentle man who came into my life in the spring of 1973. His arrival was heralded by his younger sister, Carmen, who called me at the local public television station to say that her brother should be chosen for a proposed TV special.

At the time, I was the art coordinator for the annual KQED fundraising auction. By way of encouraging donations, I had instituted a policy of having noted art writers and museum curators review all the donations and choose three artists for special recognition as the subjects of a TV program. Carmen Maldonado was convinced that Alex should be a recipient of this honor, and she wanted me to listen while she recounted Alex's life story with great

enthusiasm, devotion, and exquisite detail. The choice was not mine, I explained. But as it turned out, Charles Shere, Art Critic for the *Oakland Tribune*, Cecile McCann, Publisher and Editor of *Artweek*, and Thomas Albright, Art Critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle* all selected Alex Maldonado to be a featured artist in the newly created TV show.

As co-producer of the shows, I got to meet and spend time with Alex. Carmen was at his side. She was his staunchest ally and, at the same time, his severest critic. Brother and sister shared a small Bernal Heights home. Their nephew, Julian (called Quitungui), the abandoned son of older sister Concha, completed the household.

Carmen was the boss. It was she who had bought him the oils and canvases and had encouraged Alex to paint when he reached 60. She wanted to be certain that he would not idle his retirement away by sitting on a park bench doing nothing.

Continued on Page 6

Ames Notes

Ned Young

Ned Young was born in a small town in Vermont in 1873. As a young boy he drew cartoons and also took up woodworking as a hobby. He played cornet in the town band, but abandoned the horn after rupturing his lung. Young was considered a musical prodigy; at the age of seventeen he went to Boston as a professional violinist.



NY018 Ned Young, *Gladiator*, wood, c. 1900



NY002 Ned Young, *Chinese Juggler*, wood, c. 1900

continued woodworking, producing accomplished and elaborate pieces. At some point he gave up the violin and became an antiques dealer; he was an expert at restoring pieces with missing or broken parts. From 1898 to 1917, Young produced a set of carvings from roots and burls that he found on the bank of a nearby river. These form the collection shown by The Ames Gallery. The work is delicate, finely wrought and finished, but with the strength of the original material showing through. Young's choice of wood is thoughtful and evokes images of his process... fondling the root, eyeing it from all angles, and waiting for the image to emerge. The imagination and creativity that he showed throughout his life is seen in each beautiful piece. This unusual talent prompted us to override our usual focus on California artists and include Ned Young's carvings in our collection. ■

While playing in orchestras at resort hotels in northern New England, he met his future wife, Effie. Ned taught Effie to play the cello and they soon formed their own string ensemble. The couple eventually took up residence in St. Johnsbury, VT, where Ned taught music. All the while he

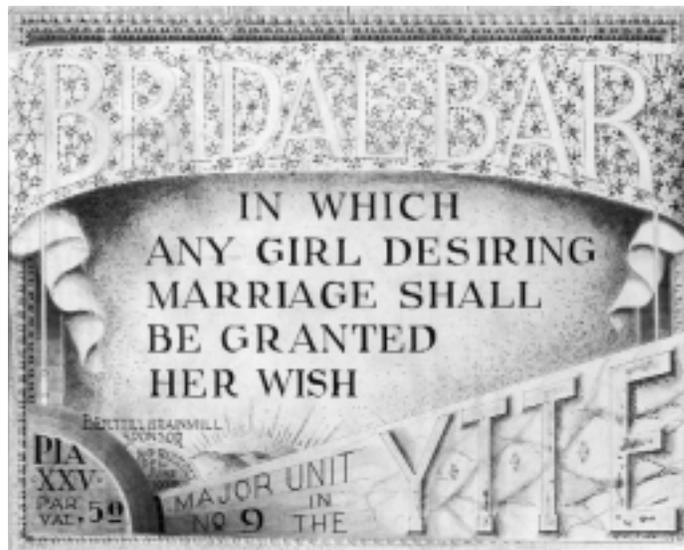


NY019 Ned Young, *Alligator*, wood, c. 1900

On the Road in California



13T/7095 Seated Couple, black oval frame, ND, 12 x 10"



AGP-25 A.G. Rizzoli, *Bridal Bar*, 1939, ink on rag paper, 8 x 10"



WHN 01 Willie Harris, *Untitled*, ND, mixed media, 23.5 x 20"

Work from The Ames Gallery is being exhibited in various venues around the state this fall.

At the **San Francisco International Airport Museum**, curators Timothy Taylor and Tim O'Brien have chosen a group of tintypes from our collection for their show *Capturing Memories*.* The exhibition will show the role of tintypes in the history and development of modern photography. If you are flying in or out of SFO in September, through Terminal 1, you'll see this show near Gate 36.

At the urging of Jane Dillenberger, Nicolas Ukrainiec has organized *A.G. Rizzoli—Transfigurations** in cooperation with Peter Selz. The show will be on display in **Berkeley** at the Graduate Theological Union. The reception and lecture, November 4 at 5:30 pm, are open to the public.

In **Southern California**, a show entitled *Radiant Spaces: Private Domains** has been assembled by curator Elena

Mary Siff; it includes pieces by Donald Walker and Willie Harris. Large enough to require two galleries, the exhibition presents a good opportunity to see work by California artists with developmental disabilities.

*Check our *Calendar* for more details of these shows. ■

**THE
AMES
GALLERY**



2661 Cedar Street
(at La Loma), Berkeley

The gallery is open by
appointment and chance.
Our small staff is present
most weekdays from
10:30 am to 3:30 pm, and
it is easy to arrange an
appointment for evenings or
weekends. A call ahead is
always advised: 510-845-4949.



AAM080 Alex Maldonado, *21st Century
Democracy*, 1981, oil on canvas, 14 x 18"

At the Ames Gallery

Through October 15
**Utopian Visions:
The Paintings of
Alex A. Maldonado**

October 20 – January 15
Women's Work

This show will include not
only the California artists that
we represent (Dorothy Binger,
Martha Douglas, Esther
Hamerman), but also some
of the prominent Southerners
whose works are not often
seen here (Georgia Blizzard,
Inez Nathaniel-Walker,
Georgia Speller).

Out & About

September – December 2004

Capturing Memories

**Terminal 1, Gate 36,
San Francisco
International Airport
Museum
San Francisco, CA**

Featuring tintypes from
The Ames Gallery
www.sfoArts.org for details

September & October, 2004

Radiant Spaces: Private Domain

A show that will include works
from The Ames Gallery,
at two locations:

**Irvine Fine Arts Center
14321 Yale Avenue,
Irvine, CA**

and
**Track 16 Gallery
2525 Michigan Avenue
Bldg. C-1
Santa Monica, CA**

October 27 – February 2

Reception/Lecture
November 4
5:30 pm

A.G. Rizzoli: Transfigurations

**Flora Lamson Hewlett
Library at the Graduate
Theological Union
2400 Ridge Road,
Berkeley, CA**

www.gtu.edu for details



20P/00502CL Anonymous trade figure, wood
and cloth, 68"

09S/6604 Collection of
wooden glove forms



October 2–3

Preview* October 1

The Intuit Show of Folk and Outsider Art

847 W. Jackson Blvd.,
Chicago IL

The second annual show. We will join a group of prominent dealers from around the country, bringing you both art and objects representative of our gallery's eclectic inventory. www.art.org for details

October 8–9

Margins & Mainstream: Disability Art Today

Oakland Museum
Auditorium
Oakland, CA

A conference organized by Creative Growth. info@creativegrowth.org for details

October 15–17

Preview* October 14

Los Angeles Art Show

Barker Hangar, Santa
Monica Air Center
Santa Monica, CA

Tenth annual show. From Folk Art to Fine Art, including Outsider, Plein Air, Latin American, Photography and more.

www.LosAngelesArtShow.com
for details

October 28–31

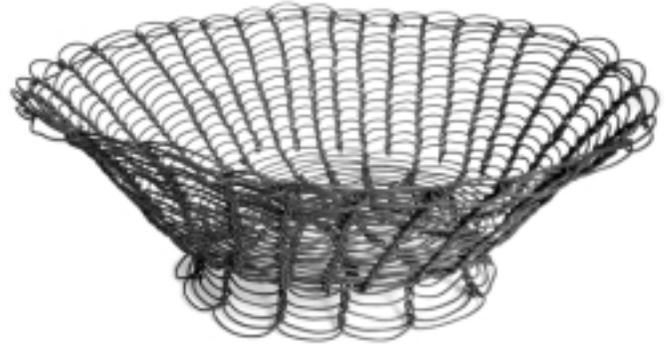
Preview* October 27

The San Francisco Fall Antiques Show

Fort Mason Center,
Festival Pavilion
San Francisco, CA

The oldest continuously operating international antiques show on the West Coast. Nearly 70 dealers from around the world offering an extraordinary range of fine antiques representing all styles and periods.

www.sffas.org for details



35W/3103 Tohono O'odham wire basket

November 12–14

Preview* November 11

Los Angeles Interior Design & Antique Show

Santa Monica Civic
Auditorium
Santa Monica, CA

An evolving exhibit of objects presented by approximately 60 dealers, this is a show of surprises from rustic to rare. Designer's vignettes will greet and inspire show goers.

www.caskeylees.com for details

December 31, 2004 –
January 2, 2005

Preview* December 30

Santa Fe Winter Antiquities Show

Sweeney Center
Santa Fe, NM

We're back at the same locale in Santa Fe for our biannual show. Dates are subject to change; please check show website to verify.

www.antiquities-shows.com
for details

January 28–30, 2005

Preview January 27

Outsider Art Fair

Puck Building
New York City, NY

We'll be exhibiting works by our most acclaimed artists including of course, A.G. Rizzoli, Alex Maldonado and Barry Simons. We'll also be presenting some surprises.

www.sandfordsmith.com
for details

February 11–13, 2005

Preview* February 10

San Francisco Tribal and Textile Arts Show

Fort Mason Center,
Festival Pavilion
San Francisco, CA

In our booth at this vetted show, we'll feature pictorial rugs and some of our best tramp art and canes.

*Music by
Sy Grossman



Ames Notes

Continued from Page 1

Alexander Aramburo Maldonado was born on December 17, 1901 in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico. Son of Romula and Guzman Maldonado, he was the youngest boy in a family of 7 children. When he was 10 years old, he emigrated to the United States with his mother and siblings. He had to learn English in order to hold the odd jobs (delivering newspapers, cleaning up after the milkman's horse) to help support his family. He became a shipyard worker at the age of 16. From 1917 to 1922 he was an undefeated professional boxer, fighting under the name of "Frankie Baker," after a home-run-hitting baseball player. Finally, he was a production worker for a can company.



AAM056 Alex Maldonado, *Museum: Children's Art*, 1986, oil on canvas, 12 x 16"

Alex Maldonado became a painter of fantastic, utopian worlds. He was inspired by egalitarian politics, science, and technology. His sighting of Halley's Comet in 1910 had made an indelible impression, one that would inform many of his future paintings. Alex produced most of his work between 1967 and 1987, but his dedication to the themes of peace, ecology, and euthanasia still remain fresh today. His colorful paintings include inventive portrayals of a society dedicated to recycling and the preservation of resources; images of Planet Maldonado, where all the inhabitants are blue, so there is no racial strife or wars; Halley's Comet and outer space; and convocations for



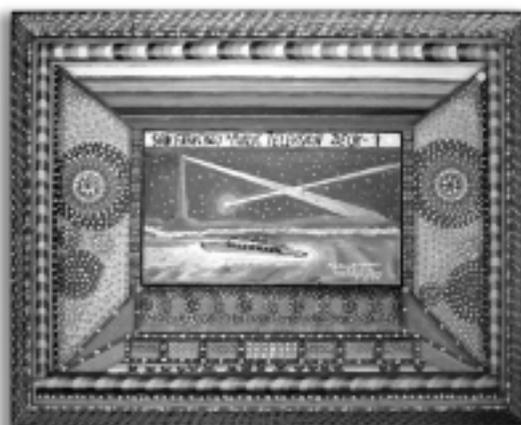
Alex Maldonado with his sister, Carmen

world peace. "I paint the impossible," Alex once remarked.

Alex Maldonado painted in oil on canvas. His naive style has pointillistic elements reminiscent of Mexican mosaics. The frames are often integral to the composition; some are covered front and back with multicolored stripes and tiny dots painstakingly applied. Sometimes the sky extends onto the frame top, and in some of the paintings, the packs of spectators' heads appear on the bottom of the frame, looking up at the picture: Maldonado provided his own audience.

Alex Maldonado had great reverence for museums. In accordance with his wishes, as stated in his last will and testament, a percentage of the income from the sale of each of his works is donated to the American Folk Art Museum in New York.

His death at 88 came as he wished, in a "mercy" hospital that kept him warm and comfortable until he slipped away. The San Francisco City Council adjourned in his memory. ■



AAM139 Alex Maldonado, *Planet Watching Halley's Comet and Boat*

Welcome, FASA

The Folk Art Society of America (FASA) is a national organization devoted to the appreciation, collection, and promotion of folk, outsider, visionary and self-taught art (see their website, www.folkart.org.) In addition to publishing an informative quarterly magazine the *Folk Art Messenger*, it visits various American locales for its annual meeting. This year its meeting will be held here in the Bay Area in October. A dinner and benefit auction in the Oakland Marriott Ballroom will feature music by Sy Grossman, and we are pleased to be hosting the group at a reception at The Gallery.

One highlight of the conference is open to the public: a symposium presented by Creative Growth Art Center. A distinguished group of panelists will include local, national, and international scholars in the fields of art and disabilities. I am proud to be included, along with Frank Maresca, director of Ricco/Maresca Gallery, and Phyllis Kind, director of Phyllis Kind Gallery, on the panel "Commercial Criteria: The Past and Future Role of the Dealer & Collector."

For more information on the 2-day event, entitled *Margins and Mainstream: Disability Art Today*, contact info@creativegrowth.org.

We welcome FASA and look forward to an informative and exciting week-end. ■

MDa08 Martha Douglas, *Husband and Wife*, oil and pencil on paper, ND, 22 x 17"

Intuit Show

There is a wonderful group of outsider art lovers in Chicago, who several years ago formed an organization called Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art. They are worth knowing about, whether one lives in Chicago or not. There is a quarterly magazine *The Outsider*, a gallery space in Chicago with a growing permanent collection, and an annual fund-raiser that is turning into an important event. Last year the *Intuit Show* was a huge success; we'll be there again with many of our favorite pieces. We think you'd like it, too... come to Chicago for the weekend of Oct. 1-3 (see our *Calendar* or their website www.art.org for details). ■



amesgallery.com

Do You E-mail?

From time to time, it occurs to us to ask how many of you would like to be on an e-mail list for shows, sales, and other pertinent

announcements that might occur in between the publication and mailing of our newsletters. If you'd like periodic e-mail updates, please send your name and address (snail and e) to us at info@amesgallery.com.

We can't promise when these mailings will occur, but we would like to see who is interested. Of course, our list will be given to no one... your confidentiality is assured. ■

Calendar of Events

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Berkeley, CA 94708

2661 Cedar Street

Bonnie Grossman



We've just returned from an intensive buying trip and we're excited by our finds. We've added some exceptional pieces to our inventory of tramp art, canes, tintypes, and articulated figures. We're looking forward to sharing them with you.

These next few months are so full of activity for us that we've been eager to get this Newsletter out in time to alert you to the many events. October starts with the 2nd annual show and sale at Intuit in Chicago, continues with the visit of the Folk Art Society of America members to the Bay Area, with a splendid conference organized by Creative Growth in Oakland, the LA Art Show, followed by the SF Fall Antiques Show. Our *Calendar* gives details of these events, so get out your calendars and pencils to see if you can join us for some of them. When a show will be bringing us your way, let us know in advance about your special requests or interests. When time allows, we'll do our best to bring things you want. As always, we look forward to seeing each of you and hearing what you have to say. Both your compliments and your criticisms are always valued.

Bonnie



M-14 A.G. Rizzoli *Mother Angels Proemshaying*, 1941, ink on rag paper, 38 x 24"