



**GEORGE MONTGOMERY**



### **Suspended Dining Table “Close-Up on Art” by Nicole Bouchard**

**About George Montgomery** (1916-2000) Actor, writer, painter, sculptor, furniture designer and architect, George was born in Brady, Montana, where he grew up on a ranch. After a year of study of Interior Design at the University of Montana, he moved to Hollywood to begin his acting career. Throughout his career, he traveled and began painting, sculpting and making furniture. In addition, he also built eleven homes and became more involved in furniture design for his own residences. His designs, most notably in the style of Windsor, became so popular that he opened a furniture factory in Van Nuys, CA. George also owned a home in Palm Springs and was a patron of the Palm Springs Art Museum, opening his first solo show at the museum in 1976.

#### **About the Dining Table**

- Materials are black walnut and wrought iron
- Made for Hollywood Hills home that he built for himself overlooking Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean and designed to complement the Spanish Style of the house. (c.1960)
- Suspended from ceiling beams by four wrought iron posts, which double as intricate vine-winding candelabras
- Seats 12 and has lazy-susan feature at the center
- Gift of George Montgomery to the Palm Springs Art Museum

**Significance of Piece** I selected this table because of my love of the designs of Albert Frey and interest in learning more about George Montgomery. In comparing Montgomery’s table with Frey’s table (c.1947) for the current exhibition of ‘Montgomery Meets Modernism’, I noticed the differences in the two but also noted that a comparison reflects two very diverse yet similar styles reflecting the time period in which they were made. This is illustrative of two design movements; that of the Spanish style indigenous to Southern California and that of the modernist style of the European modern machine age. I am impressed how both reflect a unique but shared vision of functional and beautiful design, yet are born of differing influences.

#### **Bibliography**

‘George Montgomery; Actor, Sculptor, Furniture Maker’ Los Angeles Times, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000

‘The Years of George Montgomery’ by George Montgomery and Jeffrey Millet, January 1981