

# "RAYS" DISPLAY TABLE

## Oregon Black Walnut Burl with American Black Walnut

*The discovery of a raw chunk of magnificent burl presented a challenge: to artistically design a small table around this burl in such a way as to highlight its magical qualities. The result stands before you, and yes, touching is required...*

The basis for this piece of wood art began with the discovery of the magical piece of raw Oregon black walnut burl (American black walnut [*Juglans nigra*] crossed with Claro walnut [*Juglans hindsii*]) that created the top for this work of art. Discovered during English Botanist Richard B. Hinds' 1836-1842 around-the-world voyage, Claro walnut represented a new species of black walnut trees growing in southern Oregon and northern California. For better walnut harvest, the American black walnuts were grafted to hardy Claro root stocks. The resultant Oregon black walnut is highly prized due to the wide range of vivid colors and character exhibited within the timber.

A very unusual piece of Oregon black walnut was used to create the top and lower floating shelves of the table. Though somewhat rough the timber showed just a teasing hint of the special character that lay underneath the ragged exterior - a very unique combination of wild, radial grain with randomly dispersed voids; inspiring color variation throughout; just enough chatoyance (opalescence reminiscent of looking into a cat's eye) throughout to add interest.

The book-matched set of table legs, fabricated from a single plank of American black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) has been selected for grain, color and character to complement the tabletop and lower floating shelves. Adjustable felt feet have been added to allow for leveling of the table on any surface.

The success of the design depends upon precise hand-chiseled mortise-and-tenon joints (Japanese jigoku-kusabi joinery technique) for permanent attachment of the legs to the upper burl slab, and blind half-dovetail wedged joints (modified Japanese sage-kama joinery technique) have been utilized to attach the lower shelves to the legs to create a table that will last for generations.

The table has been hand finished with a durable satin lacquer to highlight the natural color and protect the beautiful character of the dark timbers while giving the piece a warm feeling to the touch. As with all of his wood art pieces the title of the piece, creation date and artist information has been permanently stamped on the underside of the piece. This piece has been entered in the artist's permanent registry.

Dimensions:	22-3/8 inches in width 18 inches in depth 30 inches in height
Artist:	Gary A. Leake, Coupeville, Washington
Price:	\$1950