



**Emil Milan**  
Midcentury Master

# Emil Milan: Midcentury Master

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- The first publication dedicated to the artist Emil Milan, illustrated with his finest artistic creations
- Previously unseen documents and photographs
- Rare artwork
- The artist is illuminated through stories and interviews from those who knew him best
- Milan's life story is woven through American history, including WWII and the American studio craft movement
- Mid-century modern design

Artist Emil Milan (American, 1922-1985) was a major contributor to the studio craft movement in the 1950s and 60s. He was an innovator in woodworking tools and techniques, and a pioneer in using power tools to boost production. After training to be a sculptor at the Art Students League of New York, he developed and produced a distinctive line of "functional sculpture" – wooden bowls, trays, and serving ware – that captured the essence of Mid-century Modern Design. He stood with now legendary artists and designers like Wharton Esherick, Sam Maloof, Wendell Castle, Charles Eames, George Nakashima, and Bob Stocksdale (among others) in the most important exhibitions of fine craft in America. His wares were tailored for and sold in high-end retailers such as Hammacher Schlemmer, Saks Fifth Avenue and the original Pottery Barn store in Manhattan. After moving to rural Pennsylvania in 1961, he re-emerged as a teacher, mentor, and role model for dozens of successful artists and woodworkers who found inspiration in his teaching, his methods, and his self-sufficient lifestyle close to nature. After fading into obscurity following his death, this book rekindles awareness and appreciation of this remarkable American artist.

Born in Portland, OR, **Craig Edelbrock** is a Professor and Dean at the University of Alabama. He is an amateur woodworker interested in craft history and biography, mid-century design, and the studio craft movement in America. He has served on the boards of the Wharton Esherick Museum (Paoli, PA), the Center for Art in Wood (Philadelphia), the Collectors of Wood Art, and the Kentucky Art Center (Northport, AL). Emil Milan is his "craft great grandfather" - the author's mentor was trained by a man who apprenticed with Milan. These three degrees of separation resulted in the obsession to write this book.