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August Gus Gay, 1890-1949

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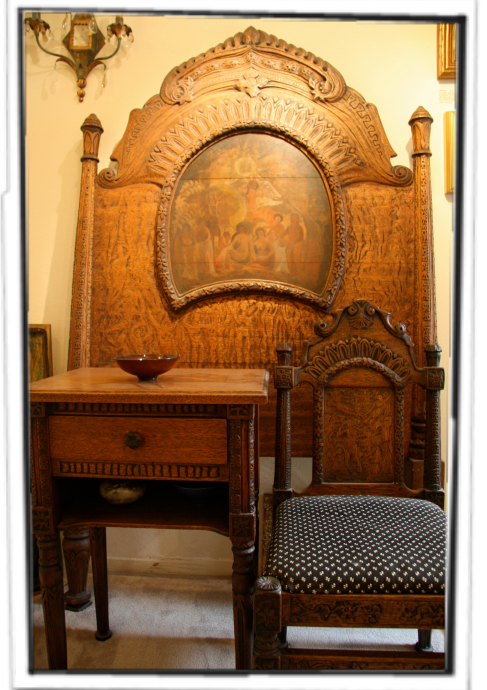
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Photos show the mahogany furniture hand carved by artist August "Gus" Gay for Carl and Susan Stanley at Hotel Del Monte. Clockwise (left to right): Dresser; detail of headboard crown; chair, nightstand and headboard.



AUGUST "GUS" GAY

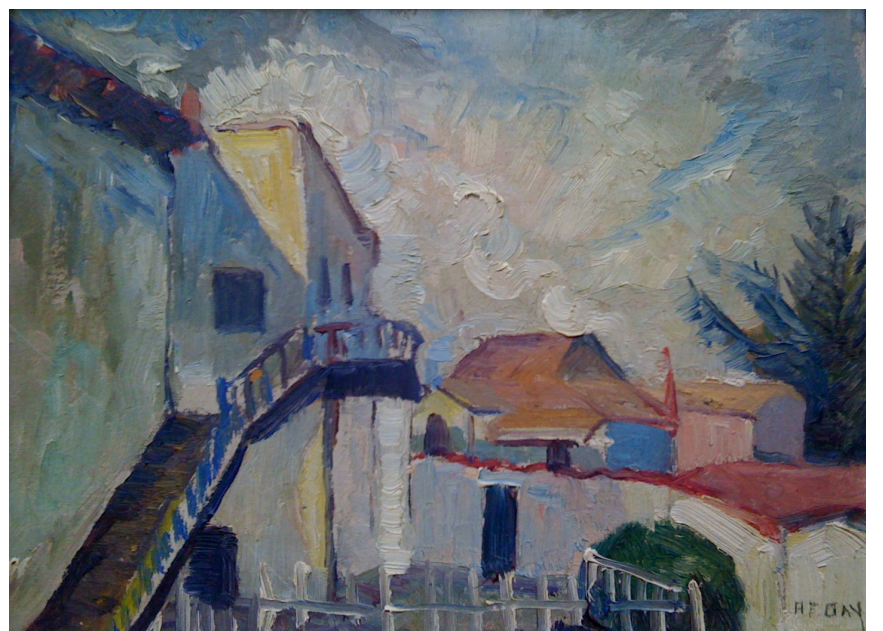
1890-1949

August Gay, known as "Gus," was born in Rabou, France. He immigrated with his family to the U.S. in 1900 and studied art at the California School of Fine Arts and California College of Arts and Crafts. He was a founding member of the art group called the Society of Six and was respected for his Cubist inspired paintings. He had little commercial success during his lifetime and supported himself with seasonal jobs in local fish factories and part-time work at Oliver's Frame Shop. He also made custom furniture, such as this set which he made for

Carl and Susan Stanley and their home in Cottage #9 at Hotel Del Monte (now called The Stanley House). Gay's studio was in the Stevenson House in Monterey. The furniture was donated to NPS by Frederick S. Stanley, son of the hotel manager.

SOURCES:

1. The Society of Six: California Colorists, 1988
2. Special Collections & Archives, Dudley Knox Library, Naval Postgraduate School



Stevenson House by August Gay, courtesy of Monterey Museum of Art.