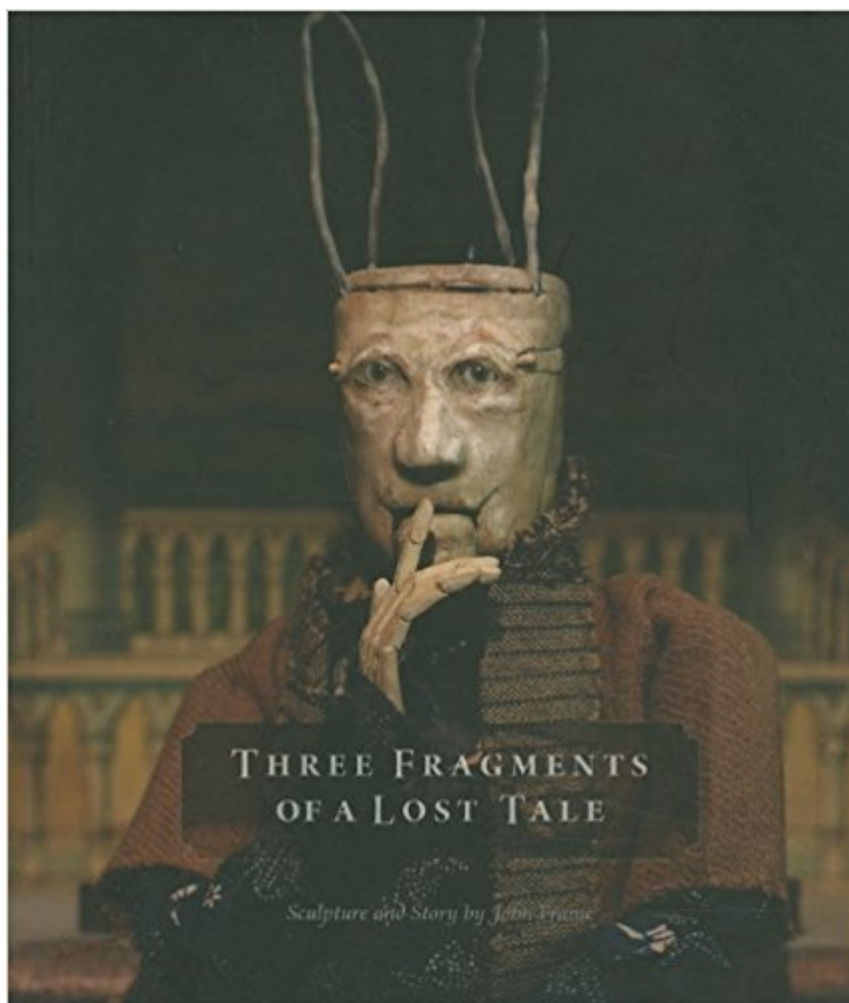


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# Three Fragments Of A Lost Tale: Sculpture And Story By John Frame



## Synopsis

Since 2006, California sculptor John Frame (b. 1950) has been working toward the creation of a stop-motion animated film featuring an eclectic cast of fully articulated characters. In keeping with the artist's distinctive style, the figures used in the animation combine found materials with meticulously carved wood and are art objects in their own right. They inhabit a curious and complex universe and act together to tell a fragmented tale in a unique idiom. The book delves into this visionary world through Frame's photographs of his sculptural pieces, stage settings, and vignettes.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kevin M. Murphy is the Bradford and Christine Mishler Associate Curator of American Art and Jessica Todd Smith is the Virginia Steele Scott Chief Curator of American Art, both at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. David Pagel is an associate professor of art theory and history at Claremont Graduate University, an adjunct curator at the Parrish Art Museum, and an art critic who regularly contributes to the Los Angeles Times.

Finding a single term to label an artist such as John Frame is more than a challenge: it is not possible. Frame has been making art for many years, but his art is sculpture and not sculpture: if sculpture suggests a work that is carved, beaten, or cast from a single source then Frame is not a 'sculptor' - unless the single source of imagination/ingenuity is considered. His are not

'assemblages' in that he does manipulate parts of his art by altering surface into forms as in woodcarving into individual characters from some strange place in his imagination. What John Frame makes is simply art - works that come from an intensely creative mind in tune with ideas spiritual and mystical and medieval, and a dexterity with his hands that molds, shapes, pins, articulates and brings into being moments of life made accessible by interacting with the strange figures and situations he has created. Though fellow artists and art historians and museums and knowledgeable collectors, especially in his home in the Los Angeles area, have recognized and praised his unique stance and gifts for a number of decades, it is likely that the world at large will embrace him after spending time with this book **THREE FRAGMENTS OF A LOST TALE: SCULPTURE AND STORY BY JOHN FRAME**. In this elegantly designed book are many many fine photographs and stills from his frame by frame animated film that Frame has created using his dream-enhanced characters to be posed, click, altered, click, rearranged, click to tell a story as though on the stage of life. The characters are mysterious, named, and become significant actors in this lost tale. In order to fully appreciate the concept and the final work the exhibition, the reader is advised to visit the exhibition now at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California. But this catalogue that accompanies the exhibition is so artfully composed that it is in and of itself an art piece. Frame's handmade figures glow in dramatic light, not only in arrangements of the story of the tale but also showing closeup photographs of the articulating hands and bodies of his cast of characters. The images are in both black and white and in chiaroscuro color, the lighting being an important aspect of the images. The very fine art writer David Pagel contributes the catalogue essay in his usual learned style, sharing not only the story of the works in the catalogue but also a fine history of John Frame as an artist, filmmaker, musician, avid reader and penetrating mind. For those who know Frame's art this book is a must. For those who have yet to discover his inordinately unique little miracles and imagination, this book will be a complete pleasure of discovery. Grady Harp, May 11

To 1st read about the artist/creator John Frame, and what "Propelled" him to create his awesome ensemble & tale, was very enlightening. THEN to view each accompanying play still, transports one into the "Three Fragments Of A Lost Tale" . Mesmerizing...and wanting more...Dark on the surface...but incredibly thought provoking Must go view the YouTube on this....such a magical & unique creation....again....

The mystical work of John Frame is a delight to behold. The images in the book are just beautiful.

John Frame wants you to make painstaking inquiries into yourself to find meaning in his work. It is an amazing journey and worth the effort. Those not familiar with this artist's work are in for a treat.

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