

THE CAMILLE AND ERIC DURAND DOCENT COUNCIL

Orange COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

# Docent Doings

January 2018

---

## President's Message

Dear Docents,

This month our program highlight was the welcome we had from Todd Smith at the site of our new museum. Todd shared both the vision of what is planned for this beautiful facility as well as the many considerations that led to various architectural decisions. This is certainly a well thought out building for displaying our permanent collection and the works of other artists on a rotating basis, in addition to providing exciting opportunities for a variety of events. Combined with the renovations that have already been completed in the plaza, our building promises to enhance the entire Segerstrom experience.

Joanne Mercer organized a very successful field trip to Mixografia. A big thank you to Joanne for her work on this!

We will continue to provide enlightening activities for our valued docents including our February program planned by Mary Blacker. You will see details in this edition of Docent Doings, and I for one am excited about the opportunity to be inspired. It is scheduled for our regular time and place, February 12th at ten-o'clock. Let's have a large turnout to welcome Lila!

There will be other responsibilities and opportunities for docents during the months that our new museum is being built. Stay tuned...

Valerie Greeley  
President

## Important Dates to Remember

**2.5.18 – 10:00 am**

Docent Council Board Meeting

**2.12.18 – 10:00 am**

Docent Council General Meeting & "Finding Meaning in a Work of Art" lecture with Dr. Lila Crespin

## Education Department – Public Programs

**1.26.18 – 7:00 pm**

Cinema Orange: *Ex Libris: The New York Public Library*

<https://www.ocma.net/event/cinema-orange-ex-libris-new-york-public-library>

**1.27.18 – 10:00 am**

The Eagle Meditation and the Fish Meditation.

**2.16.18 – 7:00 pm**

Cinema Orange: *Film TBD*

**2.17.18 – 10:00 am**

Mantram Meditation

## Finding Meaning in a Work of Art

When you encounter works of contemporary art that make no sense to you, do you:

- a) give up immediately
- b) look at the title card for a clue or name
- c) swear (because you know you should be able to understand the art of your time, but can't)

On Monday, February 12, 2018, an easy to understand lecture will be presented on "Finding Meaning in a Work of Art". This one-hour lecture presented by Dr. Lila Crespin has opened the doors to modern and contemporary art for thousands of adults and young people who often find the art of our times confusing and off-putting. The easy to learn questioning system that will guide you to a better understanding of art was first introduced at the J. Paul Getty Institute on the Arts and is very effective. The beauty of the system is that it can be used by anyone with *any work of art that one approaches*.

Crespin will help you develop a way to understand the visual arts of our own century as well as that of previous times and it's all done with great audience interaction and humor.

Dr. Lila Crespin. Lila is a resident artist living in Newport Beach. She has been a public school educator and principal, University of California professor, has chaired the Newport Beach Arts Council, and taught for the J. Paul Getty Museum within the Education arm.

The lecture follows any bit of docent business starting at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium. Don't miss what promises to be a very educational and certainly most entertaining experience!

## 2018-2019 Docent Council Board Nominating Committee

At our February meetings, it will be time to convene a Nominating Committee to select the 2018-2019 Docent Council Board officers. According to the bylaws, the committee consists of five board members and five general Docent Council members, with one serving as an alternate. The committee meets in March (usually only once), presents the proposed slate of officers to the general membership in April, and presents the slate for vote in May. You can volunteer to serve on the committee or you can nominate a fellow docent. Participating in the process is a good way to get to know other docents and to have a voice in next year's activities.

## Mixographia Recap

Traveling to Los Angeles on a Saturday in January, the docents were treated to a wonderful tutorial on a print process at Mixographia. Combining paint, sculpture, and collage, an artist's original work is put through a multi step process to a print that is in all ways like the original but now created entirely of handmade paper.

Lunch at Grand Central Market was a return to the past for many of us, with its view of Angel's Flight out one direction and the Bradbury building out the other.

Our tour ended with a stop at Night Gallery. Here, the works of Marisa Takal upsets the comfortable world of

expecting a house to look like a house and a road to look like a road. Recipient of multiple awards given to emerging artists, Takal in her paintings broadened the scope of contemporary art for the docents. In an adjacent room, Grant Levy-Lucera brought smiles to our faces with his off kilter ceramic pots glazed to resemble common products like milk bottles.

Thanks to Joanne Mercer for putting together this wonderful day.

Bette Ross



*Mixographia field trip attendees*

## **Tourette Syndrome Experience**

Last week as I was preparing to tour a group of fourth graders, I was not expecting anything out of the ordinary. As I led my group in, the last to enter the museum, it became quickly apparent that this group of students exhibited a variety of unusual behaviors indicative of learning disabilities, and were easily distracted and prone to wandering away from the group. As we reached our initial gathering spot the silence was disturbed by a very loud, unintelligible shriek from one of the boys. The two young chaperones with my group answered with a forceful “shh”. The young boy, we’ll call Billy, continued to make

extremely loud verbal utterances frequently throughout the tour. This is quite common with Tourette Syndrome, a condition which is prevalent in 1% of the population. It is a non-curable, genetic disease, more common in males, occurring at 2 to 5 years of age, and, for the majority, continuing through life. Some symptoms include motor ‘tics’ involving the head and neck region, stepping in patterns, irresistibly touching things, and/or vocal utterances, called coprolalia, frequently obscene.

As the tour commenced I realized that this was not going to be your standard tour, and I abandoned the familiar routine I had established over the run of this exhibition. Threw the whole script out and scoured my brain for new ways to engage this unique audience.

I decided to keep things clear and simple to what could be seen, counted or compared to, numbers and colors, shapes and sizes. Although timid at first, they grew eager to share once they realized that their answers were always good ones. We sat, we moved, we sat, never giving Billy a chance to impulsively touch things.

The chaperones were very quick to shush Billy, and distract him with a sticker or something to hold in his hand. It was interesting to observe that his frequent shouts did not seem to alarm or irritate the other children. One little girl would grab his hand and try to keep holding it as we moved around. He seemed calmer when he was attached to her. Every one of them, if answering my inquiries or sharing information, would continue to speak right through his interruptions as if they didn’t happen. Clearly, they were used to and tolerant of his behaviors.

I learned something from that tour that filled me with great hope for the future generations. Although Billy was constantly being shushed by both chaperones, and frequently a few of the students, he was not being judged or disciplined for his uncontrollable and greatly disruptive behavior. He was being treated with acceptance and compassion by both his peers and the adults.

These students will have a harder time learning basic skills and information because of their various learning disabilities. But if they can truly show compassion and acceptance, become non-judgmental.....well, there is hope after all.

mary grant blacker

### **February Reading Group Selection**

On February 5<sup>th</sup> the group will meet to discuss The Paris Architect, by Charles Belfoure.

## **Upcoming Birthdays**

### **January:**

Joanna Jacobs – 1/4  
Katherine Jacobs – 1/4  
Sandy Simar – 1/5  
Lynda Wilson – 1/7  
Joanne Mercer – 1/8  
Karen Evarts – 1/20  
Desirée Glenn – 1/27

### **February:**

Claudia Christensen – 2/3  
Phyllis Mandel – 2/7  
Marilyn Gould – 2/12  
Lilian Friedlander – 2/16  
Kathe Katz – 2/17  
Jennifer Condas – 2/29

## **Deadline for the next *Docent Doings***

**Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Submit all copy to:  
desiree.glenn@gmail.com