

THE CAMILLE AND ERIC DURAND DOCENT COUNCIL

Orange COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

# Docent Doings

November 2016

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## President's Message

Dear Docents,

October was a very busy month for docents that tour school children through our current exhibition, and it will continue through November, until the exhibition ends on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Lindzy has done a marvelous job fitting all the schools that requested tours into the schedule. The feedback has been extremely complimentary. A big THANK YOU to docents who lead school tours.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> the exhibition *Pop Art Design* will open. The briefing for this show will be **on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>** during the General Council Meeting. The show promises to be very exciting and a bit different than we've had in the recent past, and I encourage all docents whether touring or not to attend. And although we still have some months before it opens, here are some other dates that directly affect those docents leading tours:

Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 pm  
*Pop Art Design* Walkthrough

Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am  
General Council Meeting & Continuing Education

On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, a small number of docents had the good fortune

to meet for a field trip. We didn't have far to travel. Michael Marcus, a former docent, toured us through his art filled home in Corona del Mar. What a treat! Lynda Wilson has written an article for *Docent Doings*, which you'll find further along. But I'd like to pass on something Michael shared with us. He continues to learn more and more about art through a number of web sites. One he suggests is MoMA where he is takes a class with others that share his passion for art. Check it out – all on the web site: [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org) and [www.moma.org/learn/moma\\_learning](http://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning). Merle has done an incredible job planning our field trips this year, and there are more to come. Thank you Merle.

I'm concerned that not all of our members have received an updated 2016-2017 Roster. It will have information on our new members as well as staff numbers. There are some Rosters in the Docent Lounge and you can access it on the docent web site. If none of that works for you, please let me know and I'll make sure you get one.

The Newport Beach Planning Commission gave a unanimous endorsement to the Museum House project. The Newport Beach City Council is meeting November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to consider Museum House. For those of you who support Related California's plans to purchase and

develop OCMA's Newport Beach property ensuring Orange County gets a world class art museum - please express that support. You can show yours by attending the City Council meeting. If you will attend please respond to Kirsten Schmidt at [kschmidt@ocma.net](mailto:kschmidt@ocma.net)

I hope you've had a Happy Halloween. Best,

Joyce Rosenblum  
President

### **Important Dates to Remember**

#### **11.14.16 – 10:00 am**

Docent Council General Meeting  
New exhibition briefings by Cassandra and Alyssa Cordova.

#### **12.4.16 – 5:00-7:00 pm OCMA Holiday Party**

**12.5.16 – 10:00 am**  
Docent Council Board Meeting

**12.8.16 – 9:15 am**  
Field Trip: *Another LA Experience*  
Petersen Automotive Museum and LACMA  
(Please see Field Trip Calendar emailed by Merle Tabor Stern for more information)

**12.12.16 – 10:00 am**  
Docent Council General Meeting

### **Education Department – Public Programs**

**11.06.16 – 11:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
Free Family Day. Enjoy a fun-filled day at the museum with performances by student musical and vocal ensembles, included Costa Mesa High School Jazz

Band, unique hands-on art activities inspired by exhibiting artist Brian Bress, and special gallery tours for families. Presented in partnership with Newport Mesa Unified School District. Food truck onsite.

#### **11.11.16 – 7:00 pm**

Cinema Orange:  
*The Jazz Loft*  
<http://www.ocma.net/event/cinema-orange-jazz-loft>  
Food truck on site.

#### **12.4.16 – 2:00pm**

*Brian Bress: Make Your Own Friends*  
exhibition walkthrough with the artist.

### **Save the Date**

Flying in the face of a long standing tradition, instead of celebrating the holiday season on the first or second Monday evening in December, our annual Docent Holiday Party, will be Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm in the Museum Pavilion.

Please look for invitations to arrive in your inbox the week of November 6<sup>th</sup> and mark your calendar for an evening of entertainment, friends, food, and of course, the art.

Gale Edelberg and Phyllis Mandel,  
Hospitality

### **Docent Shares His Passion for Collecting and Making Art**

Seeing artworks by so many important artists thoughtfully presented in a home environment is a uniquely exhilarating experience. On October 23, about a dozen docents had the great pleasure of visiting the Corona del Mar home of fellow docent, Michael Marcus. As we

toured from room to room, Mike made our visit all the more enjoyable by sharing personal stories of how he came to own the works and what they meant for him.

Mike's passion for art was nurtured from childhood. Growing up in the Bronx, Mike remembers his mother taking him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Saturday mornings to look at paintings and "bribing" him with an ice cream sundae afterward. Her method certainly worked. Mike began acquiring art in the early 80's and continues to add to his collection.

Throughout the tour, Mike took time to share insights he has gathered about collecting and opportunities he had to observe artists at work. There is not enough time to mention all of the many works we encountered and admired. Immediately upon entering Michael's home, guests are greeted by a Richard Diebenkorn woodblock print from the Ocean Park years. Nestled below that is a wonderful Peter Shire sculpture, a work Mike collaborated on. Nearby is a white ceramic dog sculpture by Jeff Koons. Mike painted a rug and bone for the ever cheerful and quiet pet.

Artworks are thoughtfully displayed in every room of the house so that wherever we looked, we found food for our eyes – in one case even on the ceiling. Mike's sense of humor and ability to engage his visitors led him to ask us about a sculpture that was on the ceiling in his living room. As we focused on John Baldessari's square sculpture made of painted aluminum mounted above us, we saw a nose surrounded by clouds. "Whose nose is it?" Mike asked playfully. We paused. He gave the hint that helped us understand the title, *God Knows*. In the same room, we also

admired works by Ed Ruscha, Sam Francis, Jasper Johns, and Chuck Close, among others.

In Mike's home office, we admired images made by Robert Rauschenberg as well as some of Mike's extensive collection of art books. We also heard about a chance encounter he had with Mohammed Ali, and how Mike came to own a brand new pair of white tennis shoes signed by the famous boxer. These and many other mementos of a life lived celebrating art surrounded us at every turn in Mike's home.

Not content to only collect art, Mike has also been an avid artist and student of many media including collage, painting and photography. We ended our visit with a stop in his home studio, a place where creativity clearly happens.

Near the close of our tour, Karen Evarts asked a question many of us were likely wondering about: *What is it like to live with art every day?* Mike, who frequently mentioned the humility of many of the artists he had the honor of meeting, responded by saying, "I feel blessed every day. Today is a great day." We visitors to Mike's home felt blessed to have had the opportunity to see his collection and to hear his stories.

There were so many wonderful works to admire on our tour. Only a small fraction of them have been highlighted here. If you were lucky enough to have been on this field trip, please consider sharing your memorable moments with fellow docents the next time you see them.

To Mike Marcus, a huge thank you for sharing your passion for art with fellow docents. A special thank you to Merle

Stern for arranging this wonderful opportunity for us.

Lynda Wilson

## **Fall Exhibition Research**

Research for the current exhibitions can be found on [ocmatours.net](http://ocmatours.net) under "Summer-Fall 2016 Research," or via [http://ocmatours.net/?page\\_id=1651](http://ocmatours.net/?page_id=1651)

## **December Reading Group Selection**

The December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the reading group will discuss Better Living Through Criticism: How to Think About Art, Pleasure, Beauty, and Truth, by A.O. Scott.

## **Upcoming Birthdays**

**November:**  
Bonita Stern – 11/23

## **December:**

Annie Anderson – 12/03  
Diane Cherniss – 12/16  
Joel Shallit – 12/24

## **Call for Contributors**

As always, *Docent Doings* is looking to increase its offerings of unique, original content pertaining to the OCMA docent experience. If you attend a fieldtrip, view a film during Movie Madness, take part in book club, or participate in any other docent activity and are interested in writing about your experience, we'd love to hear from you!

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

Monday, November 28, 2016

Submit all copy to:  
[desiree.glenn@gmail.com](mailto:desiree.glenn@gmail.com)