

THE CAMILLE AND ERIC DURAND DOCENT COUNCIL

Orange COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

# Docent Doings

September 2017

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## Important Dates to Remember

**10.9.17 – 10:00 am**

Docent Council General Meeting  
Continuing Education and Fall Welcome  
Back Luncheon

**10.25.17 – 12:00 pm**

Day Mentor meeting with Fiorenza  
Comunian to discuss tour themes,  
transitions, and activities. Please bring  
a lunch, coffee and water will be  
provided. You are welcome to attend  
either session, but please RSVP to the  
appropriate host.

**10.26.17 – 12:00 pm**

Day Mentor meeting with Joaline  
Steadman to discuss tour themes,  
transitions, and activities. Please bring  
a lunch, coffee and water will be  
provided. You are welcome to attend  
either session, but please RSVP to the  
appropriate host.

**11.6.17 – 10:00 am**

Docent Council Board Meeting

**11.13.17 – 10:00 am**

Docent Council General Meeting

## Education Department – Public Programs

**10.13.17 – 7:00 pm**

Cinema Orange: *One Mind and A  
Thousand Mothers* (Double Feature)  
<https://www.ocma.net/event/cinema-orange-one-mind-and-thousand-mothers>

**10.14.17 – 10:00 am**

The Garden Meditation: Guided  
Contemplation  
Join Ross Stoutenborough for a 45-  
minute guided contemplation to develop  
deep serenity and sense of appreciation.  
Stoutenborough is a highly experienced  
meditation teacher who studied with  
Ramakrishna Ananda (founder of the  
Yoga Center of California) for more than  
25 years.

**10.20.17 – 7:00 pm**

Buddhism in Modern China: A Century  
of Transformation  
Join us for a lecture by social historian  
Rongdao Lai (USC School of Religion)  
on the intersection between modernity  
and Buddhist culture in China over the  
last century.

**11.10.17 – 7:00 pm**

Cinema Orange: *Blurred Lines: Inside  
the Art World*  
<https://www.ocma.net/event/cinema-orange-blurred-lines-inside-art-world>

## Save the Date Field Trip to Mixographia Workshop and Studio

Saturday, January 13  
9:30 am – 4:00 pm  
20-25 individuals/bus

A tour of the Mixographia print shop to understand the printing process that allows artists to create prints in high relief with fine surface detail, producing artworks that are both three-dimensional and remarkably detailed. This Mixographia method has attracted artists such as John Baldessari, Helen Frankenthaler, and Ed Ruscha. Artwork by some of your favorite contemporary artists will be on display.

More details to follow in the next *Docent Doings*.

Joanne Mercer

## Old Friends and New in “Pivotal: Highlights from the Collection”

An array of old friends and some surprising new treasures have been artfully installed in the OMCA show, which opened this past weekend. Many of the works, all owned by our museum, represent pivotal points in their creators' careers.

Curator Cassandra Coblenz has grouped the works into three categories: *Abstraction/Perception*, *The Constructed World*, and *The Power of the Artistic Gesture*. Represented in Gallery 9 (Zone 4 for touring docents) are works by John Baldessari and Charles Gaines near those of their students Amanda Ross Ho, Edgar

Arceneau and others. A slab-built ceramic vessel by Ken Price is displayed next to a similarly colorful Amy Stillman painting. Opportunities for side-by-side comparisons abound. Touring this show will be a breeze.

Among the surprises: a Carl Andre floor piece made up of concrete blocks leads the way across one gallery and into the next; Robert Irwin's *Light and Space* masterpiece has its own room, as the artist intended; Mary Corse's all white painting hangs across from John McCracken works in pure and not so pure black.



Ann Marie Rousseau with Charles Ray's "Self-Portrait" (1990)

Through a doorway, we glimpse the Charles Ray "Self Portrait," placed so it might be mistaken for a live visitor. The works in *The Constructed World* section play with reality: are these scenes real or contrived by the artist? In the Pavilion colorful works by Mary Weatherford, Monique Prieto, and Mary Heilman evoke high spirits and artistic invention. An entire tour could be

constructed featuring the many women artists in the show. Possible touring themes abound.

School tours begin later this month, and the exhibition will be on view until December 31.

Barbara De Groot

### **Magical Brush Strokes by Shi Zhiying Reveal Macro and Micro Worlds**

We first saw the work of Shanghai artist Shi Zhiying two years ago in the exhibit of young Chinese artists called My Generation. Now OCMA is presenting Shi's first solo exhibition in the US. Our museum owns one of her works, a light and shadow painting of a well-known Chinese wall of Buddhas. Our version has 336. A larger work, featuring 100 enigmatic figures modeled after China's most beloved Buddha, marks the entrance to the show.

"Painting the Buddha becomes a spiritual experience," Shi said, when she led the docent walkthrough along with OCMA director and CEO Todd Smith last Friday. Shi works primarily in black and white, watercolor and Chinese ink creating shades of gray.

Fascinated by the ocean when she visited Northern California for the first time in 2008, the artist depicts vast horizons of water using dynamic brush strokes that somehow capture the three-dimensional and ever-changing quality of the waves. Japanese Zen gardens are another subject, their precisely rendered landscapes like a sandy sea.

Color breaks through in her most recent works, titled "Crystals." Nature,

represented in the cosmos and also in molecular scale is another favorite subject.

Surprisingly, her paintings can be compared with some of the Light and Space works a few galleries away in the *Pivotal* show. A paperback booklet with reproductions of some of Shi's works and an essay by noted author Colm Toibin is on sale for \$8 in the museum bookshop. The exhibition catalogue, larger and more complete, is also on sale.

Barbara De Groot

### **Impressive Courage and Creativity by Latina Artists at the Hammer**

Ten docents and friends toured the LA/LA Hammer exhibition: *Radical Women: Latin American Art, 1960–1985*, on Wednesday, October 4. Our interactive docent tour was led by Jarrett, a UCLA arts student.

The first stop was a video by Victoria Santa Cruz, a Peruvian performance artist. Her emotional body language and passionate Spanish conveyed a message of empowerment. In the video, Santa Cruz described how she dyed her black hair blonde and tried to lighten her skin until she eventually accepted who she was - a black African citizen of Peru. At the end of her video, women and men, acting as a Greek chorus, chanted "Negra! Negra! Negra!" and danced in unison to her performance.

Our next focus was on Brazilian artist Vera Chaves Barcellos, whose work stripped down various human bodies to their microscopic essence. She used a Xerox machine to reproduce close-ups

of human skin. Then, with each close-up blown up to the size of a card table, she arranged them on the floor as a grid, in which the patterns looked like the swirls and whorls of farmland or desert when viewed from the air.



*Dagny Thorgilsdottir, Claudia Christiansen, Doris Feldman, Bonita Stern, Bette Ross, Barbara De Groot, Kathe Katz, Helen Bergenfield, Joanna Jacobs, and Paula Cruise.*

The next stop chosen by our docent hit you in the face. Three white objects hung from hooks on a giant sawhorse frame. Between the objects were two meat hooks capable of hanging a side of beef. The first object was the size and roundness of a pregnant belly. The third object was shredded apart. Working in the 1970s, Joanna Hamman, another Peruvian artist, courageously created "*Barrigas*," a cry against repressive abortion laws in her country.

Another artist, Wanda Pimental, created three very witty Pop Art-style paintings, part of a series. In the foreground, each depicts the bare legs of a woman in a claustrophobic room. We are shown the tools with which she paints her nails, strips to get comfortable, curls her hair, and reclines next to a bed frame, which resembles the black and white stripes of a jail cell.

In another gallery, titled *Resistance and Fear*, paintings by Columbian artist Sonia Gutiérrez depicted three cheerfully dressed people – a woman, man, and a little girl, bound and hung upside down. Heads were not shown, perhaps to symbolize the loss of individuality in repressive regimes. Because of the painting, the artist was exiled, we were told.

Leaving the galleries, we enjoyed delicious lunches in the Hammer's open-air cafe and had wine and snacks to speed our bus homeward. Kudos to Barbara De Groot for a splendid trip.

Bette Ross

## **Field Trips Continuing**

We have such a rich resource of docents organizing and planning trips for this coming year. Do take advantage of traveling with your art interested friends to expand your horizon.

I was nostalgic about the many adventures we were on and many of you have received my whimsical trip down memory lane. Valerie had requested it be printed in the *Docent Doings*, and so I hope you will smile with the memories and make plans for further trips that our Board will be offering.

Merle Stern

Hey Fellow Docent /Field Trippers,

Wouldn't you know it, a convergence of art and real estate. I uncovered this one and wanted to share the story.

There's a caper going on that has eluded most of the art community. It

seems that **David Ligare** and **Mark Chamberlin** began to wax on the **Canyon Project** for fear there would be another development upheaval. Little did they know there was another under current of conversation from **Pasadena to San Diego** about this up and coming interest in housing going 'Green'. They heard that **Robert Irwin** had just made an offer on a spectacular home in **La Jolla** touted for its amazing **light and space** complete with 42 solar panels. With an imposing roofline and walls of glass, the **Broad Magazine** said it was like a mini **Disney Hall**. And with inventory at an all time low, it seems Irwin wasn't the only one interested in this home.

**Ed Ruscha**, too had made an offer since he's a popular media guy and totally into the **commercial culture**. He was becoming passionate about sustainability. Ruscha was determined to get the home. Representatives from both sides, **Ann Marie Rousseau** and **Richard Channin** began to prepare a strategy to resolve all issues; after all, they were working artists and had the aesthetic approach to tap into the artists' sensibilities. Meanwhile, Laddie **John Dill** gets wind of this property and he wants in too. Multiple offers, contracts and strategic planning are becoming part of the intrigue and celebrity of this property.

Enter **Michael Marcus**, art patron from **LACMA** whose **mosaic** style in negotiating skills are significantly unique. His goal was to bring an equitable resolve for both the artist and the real estate transaction. And for his particular panache, he has gotten the nickname of '**the weisman**'. He calls for a meeting of the men in **Palm Springs** and brings in an unusual strategy—the group called **Women of Abstract Expressionism**.

This group has been known to have an Avant Guard style in conflict resolution. All of this seemed to be a bit out of bounds for the local real estate board. Clearly this is an unprecedented situation. They needed an extension of time to process all that was presented. Their decision is pending and will be presented at their next mediation/arbitration.

Back in **Laguna**, David and Mark had lost interest in the housing scuttlebutt as they are now elated with a shared purchase from **Petersen's Automotive**. To celebrate the pricey car investment, they invited Irwin, Ruscha and Dill for an elaborate dinner at the **Pacific Arts Foundation/Pacific Club** where the announcement will be made as to which artist's offer was accepted and have a new home to showcase the art.

*I love what I do as a residential real estate agent. With my flexible calendar, I feel privileged to continue to be part of the Docent Council and especially for the past 2 years as Field Trip Coordinator. Thank you for indulging me as I went down memory lane pulling these people and places into a real estate story that is my 'day job'. While this story is a 'stretch', I've had fun trying to create an artful adventure. Should you find yourself ready for a transition-be it - down size or up size, it would be my pleasure to be your advocate. If that's not in your time frame now, perhaps you know someone in need of real estate consultation. I am very appreciative of any referrals. Merle Tabor Stern 949-933-3367*

# SAVE THE DATE

10TH ANNUAL

## *Old Town Justin Art Walk*

Saturday, October 21, 2017 | 12:00pm-5:00pm

Plein Air Contest • Fine Art • Handcrafters  
Live Music • Wine Tasting • Beer Garden  
'Smile, Tustin' Photo Contest • Kids Art • Bus Tours

I will be one of the many artists displaying and selling my ceramics from sidewalk booths. Hope to see you there!

Mary Grant Blacker



## **November Reading Group Selection**

The reading group will meet on November 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss The Turning Point: The Abstract Expressionists and the Transformation of American Art, by April Kingsley.

## **Upcoming Birthdays**

### **October:**

Harriet Selna – 10/1  
Ann Anderson – 10/5  
Joan Savitt – 10/6  
Barbara DeGroot – 10/31

### **November:**

Bonita Stern – 11/23

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

**Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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