

Docent Doings

March 2014

President's Message

I knew it was coming. I could feel the time was near. Two years goes by so quickly, and before you realize it, it's your turn again. The email confirmed it: It was time for my official docent observation.

For a split second my stomach knotted with the same reflexive panic I feel when I'm overdue at the dentist. The reaction is neither rational nor is it warranted. But it is anxiety based in the fear of the unknown and the unpredictable.

That being said, I gave myself just a moment to indulge in dread and fear, and then I talked myself down. Performance anxiety is always a part of touring for me, but once I meet the viewer(s), most of my nervousness subsides and whatever anxiety is left just works to keep me alert and ready to react.

I've been touring for almost nine years, and have been observed multiple times, and each time I have gained insight into ways to improve my tours. The observation feedback has also acknowledged and reaffirmed my ability to effectively provide meaningful art experiences. My tours are in sync with the goals and standards of the OCMA education department. I wonder, over those years, what kind of bad habits I might have incorporated into my tours if I hadn't been checking in with the education staff and fellow docents at my observations. Who knows what I'd be saying or doing?

So by the time most of you read this, my observation tour will be over, and the feedback will have been discussed. Hopefully things go well, and I'll be cleared to tour as usual.

See you in the galleries!

Bonita Stern
President

Important Dates to Remember

3.3.14/9:30am

Orange County Docent League Spring Event | Monday Mashup: Nature Inside and Out(side)

9:30am – 2:30pm Please join docents from all over Orange County for a chance to practice and enhance your visual acuity skills by first birding at Upper Newport Bay then coming to OCMA for lunch and facilitated gallery experience and discussion.

3.3.14/10:00am

RESCHEDULED Docent Council Board Meeting to 3.10.14 at 9:15am

3.6.14/8:00pm

Cinema Orange | Tiny: A Story About Living Small

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Food truck onsite: StuffNIt Burger

8:00pm

Film screening in auditorium: *Tiny: A Story About Living Small*

3.9.14/11:00am

Free Second Sunday | Closing Day Celebration

11:00am - 3:00pm

Food truck onsite: Tornado Potato

11:00am - 4:00pm

Hands-on art making

11:00am - 5:00pm
Free exhibition admission

3.9.14
California Landscape into Abstraction closes
3.10.14/9:15am
Docent Council Board Meeting

3.10.14/10:00am*Sarkisian & Sarkisian*
**Briefing + General Docent Council Meeting +
Board Nominations**

3.11.14/Time & Location TBD
**March Movie Madness | *The Monument's
Men***

12:00pm – 3:00pm
The film focuses on the true story of seven over-
the-hill, out-of-shape museum directors, artists,
architects, curators, and art historians who went
to the front lines of WWII to rescue the world's
artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves.
Discussion to follow screening.
Discussion leader: TBD

3.14.14/10:00am
OCMA Auditorium
March Movie Madness | *The Rape of Europa*
10:00am – 1:00pm

Examine the artistic tastes of Hitler and his
leading advisors; the documentary shows you
how they looted many of the great museums and
private art collections of Europe during the
course of WWII. Discussion to follow
screening. Discussion leader: Kelsey Ward

3.14.14/6:30pm
OCMA Art Auction

3.17.14/10:00am
***Sarkisian & Sarkisian* Studio Planning
Meeting**

Please join us on Monday, March 17 for a
morning of activities and discussion
surrounding the studio process to be created
around *Sarkisian & Sarkisian*. We would
greatly appreciate your thoughts and feedback

as we head into a new exhibition with new
interactive stations.

3.19.14/10:00am
OCMA Auditorium
**March Movie Madness | *Ai Weiwei: Never
Sorry***

10:00am – 1:00pm From 2008 to 2010
filmmaker Alison Klayman gained
unprecedented access to Ai Weiwei,
documenting his artistic process, his intimate
exchanges with family and his increasingly
public clashes with the Chinese government.
Discussion to follow screening.
Discussion leader: Jenni Stenson

3.27.14/10:00am
OCMA Auditorium
March Movie Madness | *Museum Hours*

10:00am – 1:00pm When a Vienna museum
guard befriends an enigmatic visitor, the grand
Kunsthistorisches museum becomes a
mysterious crossroads which sparks
explorations of their lives, the city, and the ways
artworks reflect and shape the world. Discussion
to follow screening.
Discussion leader: TBD

3.31.14/10:00am
OCMA Auditorium
March Movie Madness | *Waste Land*

10:00am – 1:00pm The uplifting story of artist
Vik Muniz who travels to the world's largest
landfill, Jardim Gramacho outside of Rio, to
collaborate with a lively group of catadores, or
pickers or recycled materials, with whom he
transfers everyday refuse into contemporary art.
Discussion to follow screening.
Discussion leader: TBD

Education Department

DOCENT KUDOS

Thanks to Richard Channin, Claudia Christensen, Doris Felman, Pat Jorgensen, Anita Mishook, Susana Schwartz, Joaline Stedman, and Lynda Wilson for taking on additional tours. Kudos to Valerie Greeley, Joyce Rosenblum, and Bonita Stern for all of their support setting up our lively SAGE field trip to LACMA.

Education Department

Docent - to - Docent

Research for *Sarkisian & Sarkisian*

<http://sarkisianresearch.wordpress.com/>

Research for *Sarkisian & Sarkisian* will continue in the Wordpress online format. Preliminary materials including links to Peter Sarkisian video projections, the exhibit checklist, and the press release are now available online, at the link provided above. Additional research and touring resources will be made available by April 9. See "Categories" on the right side of the homepage and select either "Peter Sarkisian" or "Paul Sarkisian" to see research pertaining to either artist. The third category titled "Touring Resources" includes documents to use as resources for your tours.

Education Department

Response to President's Message

I loved your rumination on being observed. I think what you wrote highlights how valuable that experience can be. I just had my own observation this week and left feeling grateful for the detailed feedback offered by seasoned observers, Jenni Stenson and Bonnie Fenton,

and the kindness showered on me. Without observations, I fell like I would be wandering around without GPs. The experience reassures me when I am on the right track and helps me recalculate my route when I take a slight wrong turn

Lynda Wilson
VP Education and Continuing Educ.

SAGE

This was the second annual field trip for S.A.G.E. (Saluting Achievements by Gallery Educators) In appreciation for these docents who met their touring hours last year, they were invited on a special field trip to LACMA on Feb. 24th. The docents with the status of Active were required to tour 42 hours, and the Supporting docents needed 22 touring hours.

The group met at OCMA at 8:15 and arrived at LACMA for a private tour of the Alexander Calder exhibit before the museum was open to the public. How delightful it was to be amongst these elegant and fanciful mobiles and stabiles of Calder once again. More than half of the pieces came from the Calder Foundation, which provided an opportunity to see different works than had been included in the OCMA exhibition. Everyone seemed to be wearing a smile and a sense of wonderment as they exited the gallery.

After some free time the docents met at Ray's for lunch and discussion. The restaurant is handily located in the museum complex and offers a farm fresh-to-table menu that varies daily.

The afternoon was bathed in the light of the James Turrell Retrospective. The works spanned over 50 years and appeared to challenge everyone's sense of space and perception, light and architecture. The varied

reactions of the group provided plenty of material for discussion for the ride back to OCMA. It was a busy and fulfilling day.

A big thank you to ALL of our docents who give their time and enthusiasm for art and the community.

Valerie Greeley

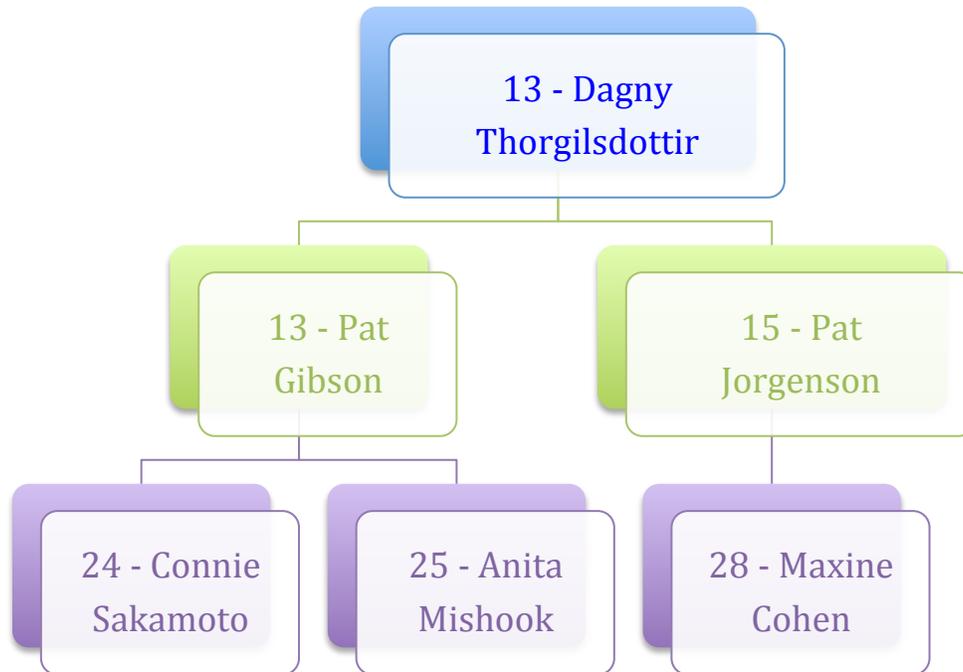
Membership

Deadline for the next Docent Doings

March 24, 2014

Submit all copy in writing to:
connies7@verizon.net

May Birthday Corner



May Who first beholds the light of day.
In Spring's sweet flowery month of *May*
And wears an Emerald all her life,
Shall be a loved and happy wife. *

*Hoyt's New Cyclopedia of Practical Quotations