

Docent Doings

September 2014

President's Message

Whether you actually felt the earth tilting on its axis or an alarm sounded on your smart phone, you have to know that once again we're moving into a new docent calendar year, a year that offers many familiar experiences as well as those that I hope will open doors to new discoveries.

Foremost of these experiences is the opening of The Avant-Garde Collection where re-seeing many familiar and beloved art pieces in a new context might shift your perspective. Happily, we can explore your discoveries together in the galleries through Continuing Education or, for a sit-down affair, Dana Doyle, a stimulating art history guest lecturer, will speak at our October 13 meeting.

Our monthly book group discussions offer yet another sit-down experience you might like to add to your calendar. Although for me, keeping up with the reading is challenging, the payoff is big. Mary Blacker, one of our newest docents says, "As an artist, I thoroughly enjoy books involving various aspects of art, and am especially thrilled to share responses with other persons of a like mind.... I really had no idea that becoming a docent would be so all around rewarding and rich. I am thrilled to be a part of it all."

Diane Cherniss, another brand new docent says, "Two of my passions are reading good books and watching movies. For me, these have usually been solitary activities. It is such a treat to be able to share thoughts and opinions on these subjects with such intelligent, articulate people. The fact that the books and films are art-focused serves to enhance my knowledge as a docent."

The "films" Diane references are all part of our recent August Movie Madness. According to Gretchen Thompson, the program offers a "great way to stay connected" while the Museum is dark. She says, "it's low hassle in terms of participating - no bus to catch or long drive."

Bonita Stern says, "I enjoy the chance to view art related films with my docent friends because we share the curiosity and enthusiasm for them. The discussions that follow the screenings have deepened my understanding and often piqued my curiosity to learn more about the film and its issues. The skills we bring to view art transfer effortlessly to analyzing the films we see. How fun to get lively feedback!"

Yet another Movie Madness fan and new docent Celia Niemerow says, "Our culmination of life experience, culture, education, travels, agreements and disagreements create some exciting and

stimulating discussion... I may even come home with a brainy new idea to share and discuss with family and friends.”

Is it possible to hope that a docent activity could bring us more than a “brainy new idea” or another way to connect with family and friends? I think not. If you find the possibility appealing, check out the calendar section of this newsletter and save the dates. As I said, the payoff is big.

Nancy Kiddie
President

Important Dates to Remember

09.11.14/7:00pm
Evening Walkthrough of *The Avant-Garde Collection* by co-curator Fatima Manalili
*RSVP required to Kelsey at tours@ocma.net

09.14.14/11:00am
Free Second Sunday | *Fall Frenzy*
11:00am – 3:00pm Food truck onsite:
StuffNIT Burger
11:00am – 4:00pm Hands-on art making
11:00am – 5:00pm Free exhibition admission
Join the frenzy with special dance performances by the Girl Scouts of Orange County.

09.15.14/10:00am
Docent Council Meeting & Continuing Education
Docents will explore ways to tour different pieces, an installer for “Tale of Two Cities” will answer questions, and opening day thoughts from artists will be presented.

09.15.14/12:00pm
Fall Welcome Back Luncheon
Join fellow docents at The Colony following the council meeting and continuing education to celebrate a new year, a new exhibition, and a new director over a delicious potluck lunch. Todd D. Smith, OCMA’s new director and CEO will be joining us to kick off the 2014-15 docent year.
*Please RSVP via the PaperlessPost email invitation from the docent council

09.16.14/10:00am
Tuesday Brainstorming Session
Join Tuesday gallery educators in the OCMA Pavilion for a chance to discuss ideas around touring the new exhibition.
*RSVP to Edie Levin
at etlevin@cox.net

09.17.14/11:00am
Wednesday Brainstorming Session
Join Wednesday gallery educators in the OCMA Pavilion for a chance to discuss ideas around touring the new exhibition.
*RSVP to Sandy Simar
at spsimar@roadrunner.com

09.18.14/1:30pm
Thursday/Friday Brainstorming Session
Join Thursday and Friday gallery educators in the OCMA Pavilion for a chance to discuss ideas around touring the new exhibition.
*RSVP to Celia Niemerow
at celiancelia@gmail.com

09.18.14/7:00pm
Third Thursday | *West Coast Avant-Garde Part 1: Revolutions of the 60’s and 70’s*
5:30pm – 7:00pm Food truck onsite:
Soho Taco
6:00pm Gallery tour
7:00pm Panel discussion with exhibition

artists Robert Irwin, John Mason, and Mary Corse.

09.28.14/11:30am

Studio Sunday | *Think Outside the Box*

11:30am – 1:30pm Studio Workshop
Led by local artist Alexandra Elconin and inspired by Sol LeWitt's *Incomplete Open Cube*, collaborate and build a large-scale geometric installation that will take over the museum patio for the day!

Avant-Garde Collection Research

Research for the *Avant-Garde Collection* is now available online at:

<http://avantgardecollection.wordpress.com>

Docent Kudos

Kudos to Joyce Rosenblum for planning an exciting field trip to UCLA's Hammer Museum and the El Segundo Museum of Art. Big thanks to Linda Wilson for leading an insightful discussion of *Cutie & the Boxer* after the screening.

October Reading Group Selection

The next meeting of the docent reading group will take place on Monday, October 6 in community room (there is no meeting in September). Up for discussion will be David McCullough's [The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris.](#)

Upcoming Birthdays

September:

Merle Stern – 9/15
Ruth Roe – 9/18

October:

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

Call for Contributors

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! For details please email Desiree Glenn at desiree.glenn@gmail.com

Deadline for the next *Docent Doings*

Friday, September 25, 2014

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