



.... news flashes from the Ethnic Arts Council

November 2011

EAC ANNUAL DINNER A FUND RAISING SUCCESS!

The EAC held their annual dinner and silent auction at the Rose Café on September 25th. Over 100 members and guests wine, dined, and caught up with old and new members, while bidding on items in the silent auction. Highlights of the evening included a short talk by founding member Helen Kuhn, who reminisced about the early days of the EAC and David Miller thanked the EAC for setting up the Virginia Fields Scholarship Fund (VFSF), which, to date, has raised nearly \$30,000 in donations. A final report on the funds raised is forthcoming, but initial reports indicate a significant amount was raised via the dinner fees, silent auction, and boutique sales.



Helen Kuhn



A new slate of EAC board members were elected, including new board members Paula Miechtry and Gene Polgar along with the new Chair, Ron Dammann. Outgoing Chair, Richard Baum and outgoing membership chair Lyn Avins were honored for their long service on the board.

April Dammann at Silent Auction

Of Note:

EAC founding member and former Chair (71-73) Dr. Jay Last will pledge a \$2 million endowment for the position of Curator of African Arts at the Fowler Museum. Dr. Last has pledged another \$1 million matching challenge grant to honor Marla Bern's 10th anniversary as the director of the museum and to help kickoff the Fowler's 50th anniversary campaign.



Memorial Service for Virginia Fields

She entered the Road, Lady Ginny Fields, Learned One



Colleagues and friends from across the country celebrated the life of Virginia Field at LACMA on September 17. Facing an overflow crowd Museum Director Michael Govan acknowledged her immense contributions to the study of pre-Columbian cultures and the impact of her 20 years of work at LACMA. His opening remarks also acknowledged the Ethnic Arts Council for their long friendship and loyal support of her work and subsequent speakers spoke to her legacy as a teacher, mentor, scholar and dear friend. David Miller, her husband, spoke eloquently about her quiet struggle to transcend her diabetes, focusing on what was important to accomplish in the time allotted to her.

Several weeks later the EAC formally inaugurated its **Virginia Fields Scholars Fund (VFSF)**, a fund dedicated to advancing the knowledge of pre-Columbian and ethnic arts with a focus on students and scholars. Scholarships, internships, travel stipends, research, and help with publication are some of the education-related efforts that this fund will consider. In just two months since its creation, the VFSF has attracted donations ranging from \$40 to \$10,000 from EAC members and others- all who knew and admired her as a friend, curator, or scholar.

“The VFSF will be a dedicated fund, open to future donations, and will begin operation in 2012” according to Grants Chair, Feelie Lee. “It will continue EAC’s long tradition of supporting and sharing our understanding and knowledge of ancient cultures through their arts. Her legacy will flourish through future generations.”

For those interested in contributing to the VFSF, please write the check to EAC and note in the memo line VFSF. Send it to:

Kaija Keel, 430 Beloit Ave., LA , CA 90049.

Alternatively, donations by credit card can be made by visiting the EAC website (www.ethnicartscouncil.org); go to the Donate section and follow the prompts.



2011 Parcours des Mondes: A Sensual Feast

By Alan Grinnell & Feelie Lee



This past September saw the tenth anniversary of the Parcours des Mondes, the international tribal arts show in Paris that is arguably the best in the world, with only the February show in San Francisco giving it serious competition for that distinction. Sixty-four top tribal art dealers from Europe and the U.S. rent galleries in a three-block area for a week in the svelte 6th *arrondissement* and bring their best material. Regulars to the show claimed this was the best ever, a sensual feast for all participants. The art was spectacular, and who could wish for a better setting? The balmy September weather, the lights along the Seine at night, the French cuisine, the abundance of cafes and bistros on every corner, and fewer camera-toting tourists. The only thing lacking was the enchanted taxi offering to take patrons back to the Twenties!

On Monday our meanderings took us to our own EAC member, Michael Hamson, who was setting up before the official opening on Thursday. Not surprising though, nearly a quarter of his offerings had already been sold, thanks to a tradition of early birders (Sam and Sharon Singer et al) and dealers' early buying and trading among themselves. By the show end, Michael had sold almost everything and many of the other dealers seemed to enjoy success given the scattering of red dots in the galleries we visited.

As usual, African and Oceanic art dominated, but three galleries featured pre-Columbian material, and two featured Australian aboriginal paintings, which have entered the mainstream art world. Overall, the material was absolutely first class. The Ferrendin and Dulon galleries featured only Kota reliquary figures. Once considered rare these "frying pan" objects commanded prices from 200,000 - 500,000 euros! The huge collection of Dan passport masks in Bruce Frank's gallery was also extraordinary. The Galerie Renaud Vanuxem had a spectacular collection of ancient African and Oceanic pieces in honor of the 10th anniversary of the show, and Pascassio Manfredi showed some major Indonesian pieces. Arte y Ritual included some marvelous NW Coast woodcarvings and Pomo baskets. Also noteworthy for NW Coast Indian art was a large collection of superb carved spoons at the Galerie Dodier. The Wayne Heathcote Gallery had its usual quota of Oceanic masterpieces, as did the Giltsoffs.





Of course, this visual feast was furthered enhanced by the great museums that dot the Paris landscape. The Quai Branly has improved greatly since its opening in 2006, with better lighting, English signage, and organization. This year it featured a very popular exhibit of Mayan art, and it was advertising a Maori exhibit. In November of 2012 the Branly will host the Benue River Valley exhibit that opened at our Fowler Museum in March 2011. The Louvre, with its highly selective tribal offerings and incomparable collection of almost everything else, is a must for any visitor, as are the collections of the Musee d'Orsay and L'Orangerie.

Visually sated, no one can ignore ubiquitous presence of eye-dazzling and mouth-watering *patisseries* and *espresso* bars, providing the necessary pause and refreshment for these weary and intrepid collectors to the City of Lights. But next year, we hope to go with an EAC group to partake of the Parcours again and witness the Benue River opening! Perhaps we can experience a different “Midnight in Paris” when that taxi picks us up!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

Warriors, Tombs, and Temples: China's Enduring Legacy
Massive Terra Cotta Warriors, Intricate Miniature Armies, Sacred Relics
October 1, 2011 through March 4, 2012
Bower Museum
2002 North Main Street
Santa Ana, CA 92706

For details, please go to: www.bowers.org

San Francisco Tribal presents the
7th Annual Art Show: tribalsf2011
Art of Africa, Oceania, the Americas and Tribal Asia
Preview: Friday, Nov. 4th, 6pm to 9pm
Regular Hours: Sat. Nov. 5th, 11am to 7pm,
Sun. Nov 6th, 11am to 5pm

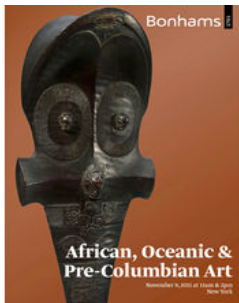


**Fort Mason Center, Building D, Fleet Room
San Francisco, CA**

Exhibiting dealers from SF Tribal: Dave Deroche, Erik Farrow, Joe Loux, Vicki Shiba, Frank Wiggers, James Willis.

Guest dealers: Peter Michael Boyd, Taylor A. Dale, Joshua Dimondstein, Sandra Horn/Ari Maslow, Mark A. Johnson, Kirby Lewis, K. R. Martindale.

For details, please go to: www.sftribal.com



**Bonhams Auction: African, Oceanic, and Pre-Columbian Art
November 9th, 2011
New York, NY**

To view on line catalog, please go to:
<http://www.bonhams.com/eur/auction/19412/>

**EAC Program 3: San Diego Art Tour
Sunday, November 13, 2011, 11am to 4pm**

An invitation-only to a limited number of guests to view the Pre-Columbian, Oceanic, and Native American collection of prominent collectors Ed and Mina Smith and visit the San Diego Museum of Art to view the **Art of Southeast Africa, Mexican Modern Paintings**, and attend the inaugural opening of **Pacific Horizons: Melanesian Art from the Valerie Franklin Collection** at the San Diego Museum of Art.

Program Closed. Those wishing to attend the 3 pm segment at the SDMA are welcomed, however, and do not need to RSVP.

**It Happened in Hollywood
A Celebration of Local Art in a Historic Setting
Sunday, December 4, 2011, 3:00 p.m.
The Stendahl Galleries – founded 1911
7065 Hillside Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90068**



323.876.7740

You are invited to join a discussion about books, dealers and artists of the era that shaped the current Los Angeles art scene.

April Dammann, author of *Exhibitionist: Earl Stendahl, Art Dealer as Impresario*

Lyn Kienholz, author/publisher of *L.A. Rising – SoCal Artists Before 1980*

Suzanne Muchnic, arts journalist

Brought to you by

The Art Dealers Association of California

PACIFIC STANDARD TIME: ART IN L.A. 1945-1980

Limited seating, RSVP by Nov. 28: stendahlart@aol.com

REFRESHMENTS

VALET PARKING

RECENT PROGRAMS:

Lecture/Slide Show by Philip Garaway, Native American Expert

Saturday, October 22, 2011

Southwest Museum at the Autry National Center

EAC member Philip Garaway gave a lecture on two major forces promoting Native American culture: the Fred Harvey Indian Department and the William Randolph Hearst Navajo Textile collection. Accompanying the lecture were a slide show and display of Navajo rugs. Afterwards, Garaway led a walk through and discussion of the Autry's Native American basket collection.

Garaway, a leading expert in American Indian art and a specialist in Navajo rugs, lived for several years on the Navajo reservation. His passion, knowledge, and insights on the subject of Navajo rugs can not be underestimated. It was a fascinating and informative lecture, rich in details about the early trade in Navajo rugs.





Endnotes:

Please send any relevant information, upcoming events, news, articles, or opinions for consideration for publication in future issues of the EAC e-news to Mark Johnson, editor, at: info@ethnicartscouncil.org

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The Ethnic Arts Council of Los Angeles (EAC)
• Dedicated to Advancing the Knowledge, Interest, and Appreciation of Ethnic Art •
www.ethnicartscouncil.org

Become a member! Contact: Paula Meichtry at paulameichtry@sbcglobal.net

