



...the e-newsletter of the Ethnic Arts Council september/october 2008

• programs 2007/2008

The most challenging assignment for an Ethnic Arts Council board member is arguably the design and execution of programs that appeal to the diverse and discriminating interests of the EAC membership. In fact, good programming is the very core of EAC. During the past membership cycles we have enjoyed numerous visits to members' and friends' homes and collections, private curator-guided tours to museum exhibitions and galleries, educational lectures, notably on "how to collect, preserve, and dispose", and field trips to hard-to-get-to petroglyph sites. Below are a few visual mementos.

A heartfelt "Thank You!" to members and friends who have opened their homes and galleries to us as well as to Program Chair Feelie Lee for the masterful orchestration of the agenda!



Petroglyph trip, photos: John Cubit

A particular successful field trip was the early June 2008 **"San Diego Art Tour"**.

Feelie Lee reports:

The 2007/2008 program year ended with a magnificent *tour de force* of three superb collections of San Diego residents that capped eight earlier programs of museum and gallery exhibits, home visits, and trips to tribal art shows in San Francisco and Santa Fe. The San Diego Art Tour (June 7-8th) proved to be a visual feast as Larry Kent, Ed and Mina Smith, and Jake and Todd Figi opened up their homes and hospitality to nearly 40 lucky EAC members and their guests.

The first home greeted us with four life-sized papier-mache card players and attendant musicians – Day of the Dead figures created by the famous Linares family. Kent's house is filled with Haitian paintings, Mexican and Andean figures and furniture as well as pre-Columbian artifacts and Inuit art. The ghost of Frida Kahlo - her necklace - hovered over the luncheon crowd which feasted on Mexican fare in a bromeliad-laden garden patio. The house pays homage to folk art at its most festive.



Ed and Mina Smith's specially designed home with its tropical landscaping and exquisite collection of pre-Columbian, Oceanic, and Native American art are a prime example of artistic synergy, i.e. the marriage of art to its setting. The Smiths are motivated first by aesthetic rather than ethnographic considerations in their selection, and their foundation (Sana) is dedicated to educating all on the diversity of cultures, esp. of the peoples represented in their collection. Much of their art is on loan to museums, galleries, and universities where curators and students participate in the design and catalogue production. The new Director of the San Diego Contemporary Museum, standing next to a rare Korewori carved statue, invited us to the January 2009 opening of an Oceanic exhibition representing pieces from the Smith and Franklin collections. This show will precede the tribal art show in San Francisco and expects to draw from that audience. A delicious array of desserts, wine and cheeses complimented the hospitality of the Smiths as we toured their collection.

Lastly, the Figis gave a welcome lecture and tour of their art collection, recalling our first program at LACMA on colonial art from Latin America. The Figi's collection, however, focuses on 150+ modern masters alongside nearly 40 paintings by the Chilean surrealist Roberto Matta. Their vast holdings also include works by Henry Moore, Calder, Dali, Rembrandt, Gaudi as well as objects from the Tang Dynasty, Angkor Wat, and Korea. The Figis represent a passionate love of art that is inclusive rather than merely specialized, and their 1920's Spanish-style home was a fitting receptacle of their unique collection.

For those who chose to stay overnight, they were treated to a personally guided morning tour to one of the largest bromeliad nurseries in California. Larry Kent, owner and EAC member, gave a fascinating lecture and tour of the nursery where exotic species from Latin America and Europe are cross-bred with local species to produce unusual and highly desirable hybrids. It was easy to move from art to the sensuous beauty of plants as well as spend the afternoon exploring the many museums in the San Diego area.



Ed Moses at Ernie Wolfe,
photo: Wolfgang Schlink



Silent auction management, photo: John Cubit




San Diego trip, photo: D. Goldenberg




• the EAC Annual Dinner - sunday, september 28

If you have not sent in your reservation for the EAC Annual Dinner/Silent Auction to benefit EAC's Grants Program, please do so now. Friends and guests are welcome!

EAC Chair Kaija Keel would love to have your reservation by September 14 ...

 <p>Ethnic Arts Council of Los Angeles Annual Dinner 2008</p> <p>Sunday, September 28th from 5 to 9pm.</p> <p>Fowler Museum at UCLA Sunset Blvd. & Westwood Plaza Los Angeles, CA 90035</p>	<p>Program</p> <p>5pm</p> <p>Silent Auction Viewing Room 100</p> <p>Cocktails: Fowler Courtyard</p> <p>Tour of the Museum Exhibitions</p> <p>7pm</p> <p>Dinner Served</p> <p>Annual Meeting & Elections</p> <p>Museum Directors' Presentation</p> <p>Conclusion of the Silent Auction</p> <p>RSVP Kaija Keel</p> <p>Please Send Enclosed.</p>
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Asante cloth, Oyokoman, Silk, Ghana.
© UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History.

	<p>EAC Annual Dinner 2008 Reservation</p> <p>Name(s) _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Tel _____ Email _____</p> <p>\$125 per person</p> <p>Gold Table (8) at \$1,000</p> <p>Platinum Table (10) at \$1,500</p> <p>Number of people attending _____</p> <p>Sorry, can't come. Will donate \$ _____</p> <p>Please mail your check to the EAC c/o Kaija Keel 430 Beloit Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90049</p> <p>Early replies are greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Guests, friends & potential members always welcome.</p> <p>Dress: Festive.</p> <p>Registration deadline September 14th. Thank you.</p>
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... and for your tax deductible contributions to EAC's Silent Auction, please call Kaija Keel (310-471-6074) or Tamara Hoffman (310-556-5549). Thank you!

Contribution deadline is September 21!



• exhibitions, events, publications ...

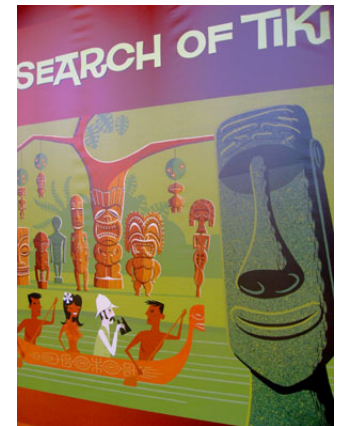
Exhibition: “In Search of Tiki” – The Exotic World of Tiki Art

Ongoing to January 4, 2009, Forest Lawn Museum, Glendale, CA

Gallery talk by Doug Nason, curator of the exhibition/anthropologist/author/gallerist/tiki expert, and EAC member: **Oct. 12 at 1.30 PM**. Reservations: 1-800-204-3131.

Several EAC members had asked me to write about this show:

So, I made a Labor Day trip to find tiki, the primordial Polynesian ancestor, at the unlikely location of Glendale's Forest Lawn Museum, colloquially aka Michelangelo's studio. Growing up among the antipodes of the South Seas, the word “tiki” first entered my vocabulary by way of the heroic Heyerdahl raft voyage and his subsequent book in the 1950s. Later I learned that James Cook early on took a liking to the *hei-tiki*, the greenstone neck ornaments of the Maori. In fact, on his next voyage, the amulets were now - surprise - available in abundance. Clever port art merchandisers, those Maori.



Yet the true export of the South Seas alluring, lasting romance and - long vanished - culture, thriving on exotic tiki imagery of the Pacific Islands, began to take hold only some 150 years later. Theme restaurants, like Hollywood's “Don the Beachcomber” and Oakland's “Trader Vic's” paved the way. Even more so, with the return of the GIs from the Pacific pseudo Polynesian ethno-art began to adorn bars, hotel lobbies, and homes. Think fishnets, fierce-looking Marquesas icons or Disney's “Enchanted Tiki Room”. Tiki-themed salt and pepper shakers, mugs, coasters, and glasses were popular, and so were exotic tiki drinks. Swimming pools became lagoon-shaped and had towering tiki posts watch over them. Elvis had his “Jungle Room”, and Hef had his tiki-ed Playboy pool. A painting movement was not far behind...

If you expect “Primitivism in 20th Century Art: The Tiki Sequel”, you may want to pass. If you are fascinated to see how the ersatz romanticism of the South Seas and the vague image of the tiki - an idol ubiquitous to Borneo, New Zealand, Easter Island, and Hawaii - became somewhat of an inspiration and blueprint for a segment of pop culture in California and beyond, go visit.

Exhibition: “Art and Divinity in Polynesia, 1760-1860”

Ends Sept. 14, 2008, Musée du Quai Branly, Paris. More info at www.quaibranly.fr

The most comprehensive exhibition to date. 250 works of Polynesian art from the 18th and 19th centuries, from the collections of major European museums.

Combine your visit to the authentic tiki with - the \$ is strengthening! - a spree at...



Art Fair: *Parcours des Mondes* 2008, Paris, September 10-14, 2008

Larger than ever, the **Parcours** is *the* tribal art fair to attend. EAC members Dimondstein, Hamson, and Murray are among the 60 some exhibiting galleries.

More info: www.parcours-des-mondes.com

Members' Publications:

- **Michael Hamson** has continued his annual catalog series with "**The Art of West Sepik**", illustrating fifty art objects from the Torricelli Mountains and other remote areas of PNG.

More info: www.michaelhamson.com



- **Mark A. Johnson** has published a catalog "**Art Borneo**", featuring twenty-eight rare pieces of Dayak tribal art. Mark also maintains an occasional tribal art blog.

More info: www.califmall.com/markajohnson/borneo_catalog.html



• membership

A heartfelt "Welcome!" to our new and returning members:

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| • Greg Hamson and Mary Bautista | • Dr. Herbert and Selma Moskowitz |
| • Tom and Peggy Jacobson | • Edward and Mina Smith |
| • Stephen and Claudia Kramer | • Babette Sobel |
| • Chie Lee | • Brenda Williams |
| • William Lippman | • Ernie and Diane Wolfe |
| • Robert W. Moore | |

Membership Chairs Christine Gregory and Julie Heifetz remind all members to mail in their renewal dues (if not done already).

Thank you for your continuing support of the Ethnic Arts Council!