



... news flashes from the Ethnic Arts Council

December 2012

ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION:

One-hundred-and-twenty EAC members and guests attended the Annual EAC Dinner at the Fowler Museum at UCLA on October 7. To start with the bottom line - this is EAC's main fundraiser - the net income was nearly \$30,000, an all time record. Thanks to the generous donations and spirited bidding of EAC members we were able to add considerably to the EAC's 2013 grant fund.



The Silent Auction/Boutique proved to be the major draw with a variety of ethnographic objects, artworks, gift certificates, behind the scene museum tours, and wearable art. EAC member and dealer in Oceanic art, Michael Hamson, again placed several quality art objects on eBay, donating the entire proceeds

(another record amount) to the EAC general fund. EAC ex-chairman Will Hughes came through (again) with a very generous cash donation.

*A full list of EAC donors to the Silent Auction/Boutique, General Fund/Grant Fund, and Virginia Fields Scholarship Fund (VFSF) will be posted on the EAC website and at the end of this issue of the e-News.





Continuing the Legacy:

The **Virginia Fields Scholars Fund (VFSF)** focuses on pre-Columbian cultures as well as their impact on contemporary society. Inaugurated a year ago in memory of Dr. Virginia Fields, a beloved friend of EAC and a long-time curator at LACMA, this fund seeks to grow the next generation of scholars, curators, and researchers in the field with a special emphasis on young scholars and new and emerging professionals in the area. Scholarships, internships, travel stipends, research, and help with publication are some of the education-related efforts that this fund will consider.



At the recent EAC Annual Dinner held on October 7th at the Fowler Museum, two outstanding recipients of the VFSF were introduced to the sold-out dinner crowd. **John Hirx**, head of Objects Conservation at LACMA as well as a Ph.D. student, will head to Panama to initiate a collaboration with the Smithsonian's Tropical Research Institute and its chief archaeologist, Dr. Richard Cooke. There he will collect a representative sample of sherds from a variety of vessels from different regions, export them to LACMA and perform

material analysis that should add significantly to the knowledge base for ancient Panamanian material.

The second awardee, **Dr. Patrick Polk**, has been the curator of Latin American and Caribbean Popular Arts since 2009. His travel research grant will take him to Mexico City and environs for two weeks where he will conduct research in various museums. He will also perform a short-term ethnographic survey of contemporary visual representation of pre-Columbian divinities associated with death in the Colonia Morelos barrio in Mexico City. This research is a part of a larger project, *Sinful Saints and Saintly Sinners*, an exhibition scheduled to premier at the Fowler in late spring 2014.





"The **VFSF** will be a dedicated fund, open to future donations, and 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 such projects" declares Dr. Feelie Lee, Chair of the Grants Committee.

For those interested in making an year's end contribution to the **VFSF**, the **Grants Program**, or the **General Fund** please write the check to EAC and note in the memo line the designated fund.

Send 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.

BREAKING NEWS!

EAC Board Chairman and Pre-Columbian expert Ron Dammann has just been appointed as the Bowers Museum's Curatorial Consultant for Pre-Columbian Art. Congratulations Ron and well deserved.

UPCOMING/CURRENT EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS:

San Francisco Tribal & Textile Arts Show "Fine Art of Native Cultures"

February 8 to 10, 2013

Opening Preview: Thursday, February 7.

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion

San Francisco, California.

For details, please go to www.caskeylees.com

Katsina in Hopi Life:

June 29, 2012 to June 23, 2013

Autry National Center – Griffith Park

www.theautry.org



Katsina in Hopi Life, featuring remarkable *Katsina* dolls from the Autry's Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, provides a glimpse into Hopi life and culture. *Katsinam* (the plural form of *Katsina*) are spiritual beings that represent all aspects of life and travel to be with the Hopi people six months of the year. Told from the Hopi perspective, this exhibition shares the unique relationship the Hopi people have with the *Katsinam*, focusing on the values, lessons, and encouraging messages learned from them.

EAC funded the carving of 15 *Katsina* dolls, included in this exhibition, performing a sacred dance. A master Hopi artisan was commissioned to do the carvings using similar materials and techniques of the past. Because of its sacred nature, such dances cannot be performed before a live audience. These carvings, placed inside a diorama, are an important substitute.

PREVIOUS EAC PROGRAMS:

Program 3: *In Extremis* November 7, 2012

In a spellbinding walk-thru of the *In Extremis* exhibition, Dr. Patrick Polk gave an unflinchingly honest and viscerally provocative lecture on Haiti's paintings, prints, installations, metal sculpture, and mixed-media sculptures by established artists and a new generation of self-taught genre-busters. These artists have constructed huge figures out of car chassis, human skulls, tire chains, and discarded computer parts. Many of their sculptures are manifestations of Bawon (Baron) Samdi (Papa Gede)—the Vodou divinity who presides over mortality, sexuality and rebirth— and of the Gedes, his capricious sons. These bold works dramatically underscore the subject of the exhibition: the disjunction between social collapse and artistic florescence, and how Haitian artists' work can be seen through the prism of this increasingly dominant family of Vodou divinities.



Members also were treated to a contrasting exhibit - *Curious Creatures from Mexican Popular Arts* - approximately forty objects that show how



animal figures are imaginatively crafted, drawing on selected family and regional traditions in Mexico.

EAC Tribal Asian Study Group – 2nd Meeting (11/28/12)

Subject: Beadwork from Borneo Island.

The second meeting of the TASG was held at the residence of Borneo art specialist Mark Johnson. Using examples from his personal collection, Mark led a discussion on beadwork panels from Borneo Island. Included was a short history of the trade in glass seed beads from Bohemia to Borneo, how the panels were used, tribal identification, meaning of the motifs, age, and quality. Participants were encouraged to bring their own examples to include in the discussion.



The Tribal Asian Study Group was formed to give interested EAC members an easy and intimate forum for learning about specific areas and aspects of tribal art. Other study groups are planned. The second group, now in the start-up process, will focus on the arts of Africa. EAC members interested in learning more about African art should contact Richard Baum at rnbaum@hotmail.com.



EAC DONORS:

General Fund – Grants Fund (\$100 - \$10,000):

2012

Michael Hamson (Michael Hamson Oceanic Art)
Will Hughes (Bicara Ltd)
Louis & Dena Marienthal

Silent Auction – Boutique Donors (\$50 - \$5,000):

2012

MB Abrams
The Autry National Center



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Richard & Jan Baum
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Tom Blumenthal
Brooks Brothers
John & Georgia Case
Bill Caskey & Liz Lees (Caskey Lees, Inc.)
Josiah Citrin (Melisse Restaurant)
Ron & April Dammann (Stendahl Gallery)
Pascale Dang
Dhaba Restaurant/Rose Café
Joshua Dimondstein (Dimondstein Tribal Arts)
Jerry & Judi Friedman
Philip Garaway (Philip Garaway Native Arts)
Geary's of Beverly Hills
Jonathan Gold
MeraLee Goldman
Alan Grinnell & Feelie Lee
Roy Hamilton (Fowler Museum at UCLA)
Mary Herne
Will Hughes
Peggy Jacobson
Mark Johnson (Mark A. Johnson Tribal Art)
Kaija Keel
Peter Keller (Bowers Museum)
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Norma Sporn
Audrey Stein
Jose Terz
Nancy Thomas (LACMA)
Peter Wendel
Janis Wetsman



Virginia Fields Scholarship Fund (\$50 - \$10,000):

2011-2012

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Michael Hamson (Michael Hamson Oceanic Art)
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Eugene Polgar
Armin Sadoff
Ed & Cherie Silver
Kerry Smallwood
Kaye Spilker
E. Waldo-Dentzel
Peter Wendel



Membership Roster for 2013

The EAC Roster for 2013 is about to go to press for all current (paid) members. If there has been a sudden change in your personal information, please contact Tamara Hoffman immediately at tamara.hoffman222@gmail.com. If you want to join now and also be included, again contact Tamara Hoffman ASAP!



Endnotes:

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Contributors: Feelie Lee, Mark Johnson
Additional photography: Gerri Lewis

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The Ethnic Arts Council of Los Angeles (EAC)

• Dedicated to Advancing the Knowledge, Interest, and Appreciation of Ethnic Art •

Become a member! Contact: Tamara Hoffman:
tamara.hoffman222@gmail.com

