



Quarterly



FALL 2006

JAMES RENWICK ALLIANCE

Masters of The Medium

Five outstanding craft makers were selected by ballot this summer for the title of Masters of the Medium.

Compiled by Clemmer Montague

All James Renwick Alliance members voted for their choices for Masters of the Medium from artists on the Honorary Board list.

They are: Kay Sekimachi (Stocksdale), Berkeley, textile/fiber; Rudy Autio, Missoula, MT, ceramics; Joyce Scott, Baltimore, metal/jewelry; John Cederquist, Los Angeles, furniture; and Ginny Ruffner, Seattle, glass.

They will be presented the award at a Masters of the Medium ceremony during Spring Craft Weekend on Sunday, Apr. 22. Health permitting, each plans to take part in all the weekend events. All five have at least one piece in the Renwick Gallery collection.

The passages below describe aspects of each artist's work and life as seen through the eyes of others. See each web site for biographical information.

Kay Sekimachi (Stocksdale)



"All my work is done in the old folk technique called 'ply-split braiding'. In India, the technique is used to make thick, long narrow straps called camel girths. These straps intrigued me for several reasons: usually they are made of coarse goat hair in two colors, natural and dark born, and require minimal equipment. A piled yarn is the only necessary yarn: you can work with it anywhere. When I first started I used a crochet hook, and I have used a sailor's awl. The first pieces I made in 1975 were small wall hangings in heavy cotton. I revised the technique in 1993 and make miniature baskets. These represent my third effort, and it continues to fascinate me. The small miniature *Twinelines*, made of hand plied paper thread, were done in Hawaii. The larger *Twinelines* were made of commercial paper twine called "Danish cord." The *Twinelines* series look to me like line drawings in space. Marion (Hildebrand) is a close friend and basket maker with whom I spend time in Hawaii. Since we both were working with the idea of converging lines in our respective work, Marion with branches and me with paper twine, we decided to try collaborating, a new process

for each of us. Fortunately we were both inspired by each other's creativity. It was amazing to discover how well some of our ideas worked together." Artist's statement. See www.aa.si.edu/col-lections/orarhistories/transcripts/ikma01.htm for Kay's biography in an oral interview at her home in Berkeley, CA, Jul. 26 and 30 and Aug. 3 and 6, 2001, conducted by the Smithsonian Archives of American Art under the auspices of the Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America.

Rudy Autio



"Rudy Autio's ceramic art possesses a quiet knowledge. ...what of the tumbling horses, the contortionist women with arms and legs bent in directions even a gyroscope could not balance. ...but then consider: the bending clay, the drawn slip forming arabesque figures, the increasing colorful glazes. Here is the quiet knowledge, as the decision to repeat or discard, shift the hue, thicken the line, each accumulate for a mature vision. There is an additional subtlety, one of constancy, created from a lifelong commitment to drawing and to the clay vessel. Autio's art continues to tap the resource of Western folklore from actual locations to the lyrical dynamo of bucking horses. ...there is an immediate awareness

of unspoken authority—as clay artist, painter and visual innovator. His quiet soft spoken manner can be, like his art, illusive of his deeply held dedication." Abstraction from Michael Rubini's foreword, *Rudy Autio Work 1983-1996*, White Swan Press, 1996. See www.rudyautio.com for biographical information.

Joyce Scott



"It's important to me to use art in a manner that incites people to look and then carry something home -- even if it's subliminal -- that might make a change in them," Joyce Scott says of her work. Born and raised in Baltimore, Joyce J. Scott (b. 1948) is a descendant of African-Americans, Native Americans and Scots. Three generations of storytellers, quilters, basket makers and wood, metal and clay workers inspire her work. Scott's earliest art lessons were received at home as she watched her mother, the renowned fiber artist Elizabeth Talford Scott, create quilts using unconventional embroidery and appliqué techniques. Joyce's art -- its forceful vision, biting social commentary and dazzling skill -- is grounded in weaving, quilting, beadwork and glass. Educated in Baltimore City public schools, she

Status of Quarterly

The Quarterly is going through a number of important changes in the next few months which will affect appearance, mailing service and distribution

DESIGN AND PRINT: First of all, thanks to the new designing and printing firm, GRC Direct, Warrenton, VA., the Quarterly is being printed in full color, at the same price as duo color printing of last season. This gives the advantage of having great photos in full color and greater flexibility in design.

This decision was made after much research and comparison of prices and services. GRC Direct offered to design and print the JRA publication at a very reasonable price for full color. The new designer is Sherry Stoner.

MAIL SERVICE: Choosing a mail service was a no-brainer. Our current mail service for correspondence, RSJ Word Processing & Mailing Services in Chevy Chase, will do the mailing with a first class stamp (delivered the next postal day) for one cent less than several other companies offering non profit presorted first class service, which means it goes first class non profit space available and will arrive some time in the future. So JRA's own Randi Jacobs has honored privilege of mailing the Quarterly. It is in-house, but the best service available, and JRA is privileged to have such a fine person and hard worker as Randi handling the mail service. Randi is the daughter of Marshall and Shirley Jacobs and has been providing the regular mail service for a long time.

DISTRIBUTION: During the editorial meeting in July, a decision was made to continue distribution by U.S. Postal Service until the Spring/Summer issue which then will be distributed by e-mail message. Those members who do not want e-mail service will get an opportunity by letter in early May to indicate their choice. Only those who prefer postal service distribution need respond to this letter. Those who do not respond will get the Spring/Summer Quarterly by e-mail message.

PUBLICATION DATES: By reviewing JRA activities for a year, it is apparent that JRA operates only nine months a year; therefore, it is more logical to publish the Quarterly three times a year instead of four. Editions will be: Fall: September, Winter: late February (for all SCW information), and Spring/Summer: June



JAMES RENWICK
ALLIANCE
Quarterly
FALL 2006

The Quarterly is published three times a year by the James Renwick Alliance, an independent national non-profit organization created to celebrate the achievements of America's craft artists and to foster scholarship, education, and public appreciation of craft art. Founded in 1982, the Alliance helps support the nation's showcase of contemporary American craft, the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. The opinions expressed therein are not those of the James Renwick Alliance, its board of directors, or the Smithsonian American Art Museum Renwick Gallery and its staff.

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From the President . . .

Although it's hard to believe, I'm beginning the second year of my presidency. Time has really flown by.

While I'm very pleased about the accomplishments of this last year, the coming year looks to be even more exciting. Since I devoted much of the Summer Quarterly to looking back at last year, and I have recently sent you a letter discussing many of the JRA's upcoming activities, I'd like to talk about how our members are serving the organization.

Anne Mehninger, president-elect, has had two separate six year terms on the Renwick board. I am working closely with Anne, so that when she becomes president in July 2007, she will be ready to take over. We are a great team. Last month we interviewed perspective JRA office administrators. As usual, we quickly came to agreement on a candidate and hired Katie Mazzari. Katie majored in arts administration at American University and is excited to be working for the Alliance. We have six new board members:

Marilyn Barrett served on the Renwick board from 1998 to 2004 and is rejoining the board. This next year, she will be working on the Masters of the Medium program for our Spring Craft Weekend.

Tim Tate, glass artist, and **Margaret Boozer**, ceramicist, are working on programs to interest younger members. Margaret also is working with Binnie Fry on workshops/lectures.

Larry Hawk comes on to our board having worked as a committee member putting together programs last year.

Miriam Bonner is currently putting together a trip to Copenhagen for the Craft Leaders Caucus. Last year, she helped work on a proposal to make JRA funds available to publish a book documenting the Renwick Gallery's studio furniture collection.

Wanda Rappaport is co-Alliance trip committee chair along with Pat Arnold. They will oversee three local day trips this year, as well as the Alliance's trip to Boston and the Pioneer Valley.

Judy Davis is our new caucus chair. She is hard at work, planning a series of special events for our caucus members. Arthur Mason has just joined Judy's committee

Irene Sinclair stepped down as JRA treasurer. Our new treasurer is J.G. Harrington. Larry Gabriel is finance chair, and Arnie Berlin and Barbara Waldman are on the finance committee.

Cynthia Boyer as education chair is planning a wonderful program for you at the Gallery this year. Fran Burka is Caucus trip coordinator. She is advising trip leaders Rebecca Stevens, Irene Sinclair and Miriam Bonner.

Many members have volunteered to work on various aspects of Spring Craft Weekend which is chaired by Reba Immergut: Barbara Berlin, Mallory Lawson, Paul Parkman, Elmerina Parkman, Bob Sinclair, Marilyn Barrett, Pat Arnold, Leslie Lane, Laurel Mendelsohn, Marc Grainer, Bev Denbo, Sandy Mitchell, Bonnie Schwartz, Tony Glander, Julianna Mahley, Jan Maddox, Sharon Buchanan, Liz Mears, Ruth Conant, Clemmer and David Montague and Toni Gordon. Then, of course, Shirley Jacobs runs our Craft weekend patrons program.

Clemmer Montague continues as membership chair, and she has also taken over as Quarterly editor. Miriam Rosenthal is helping with pictures. Chris Shea and Dana Travas will be writing articles on artists.

Judy Weisman is acquisitions sub-committee chair.

Nancy Schneider is planning and nominating chair, assisted by Irene Sinclair, Barbara Waldman, Rick Snyderman, Chris With and David Montague.

Marsha Gold and Vivian Pollock are on the membership committee.

Elaine Marks, vice president, recently ran an orientation meeting for new board members, supported by Elmerina and Paul Parkman.

Alan Jacobs in on the acquisitions sub-committee chaired by Judy Weisman, and John Meyerhoff is fellowship chair.

Sue Kolodner is working on another day trip to Baltimore.

Laurel Mendelsohn has taken over as gallery caucus chair. And speaking of gallery caucus, I'd like to thank David Stearman who conceived the gallery caucus program in 2001. Brenda Erickson provides your monthly e-mail newsletter.

The above list includes most of your current board members, a few past presidents, some past board members, and other JRA members who wish to help out. A caveat: some people are involved in as many as three different committees, and I may have only mentioned one. Not everyone on your JRA board is on a committee at this time, but they will be sharing their critical ideas at the Board meetings. Please forgive me if I didn't include your name! I THANK YOU ALL!

During the coming year, we hope to get other JRA members involved. If you are interested, call the JRA office and tell Katie that you would like to be on a committee. Tell her about any special interests you may have. If we can accommodate you, we will. If you can't be on a committee, but you would like to assist in other ways, rest assured, we can always use your help. For example, we will be calling on members to staff our table at the Washington Craft Fair.

I hope to see you at many JRA events this year!

Regards,

Diane



Reba Leads SCW Crew

By Reba Immergut, SCW Chair

Spring Craft Weekend planning began this summer when the committee, headed for the second year by Reba Immergut, set the theme as *Back to the Future: A Celebration of American Craft and the James Renwick Alliance 25th Anniversary*.

Dates for Spring Craft Weekend (SCW) are Friday, Apr. 20 to Sunday, Apr. 22.

Reba has put together another exceptional committee to make the weekend celebration a memorable one. Sandy Mitchell will coordinate activities for Caucus Day with plans now to incorporate a very special acquisitions meeting chaired by Judy Weisman to commemorate the JRA 25th Anniversary.

Shirley Jacobs will again be the patron Saint of Patrons who will all be entertained at an evening patrons' event held at a local home with a wonderful craft collection assembled with the help of JRA's own Mallory Lawson. Mallory and Barbara Berlin will chair the evening's events.

Marc Grainer with the help of Bev Denbo will chair the symposium to be held at the

Masters of Medium Cont.

received her BFA in Art Education from Maryland Institute, College of Art and earned her MFA in crafts at Mexico's Institute Allende. While Joyce has studied the art of Native Americans, West Africans and Central American Cuna Indians, she is just as interested in the contemporary culture as it exists on the streets of her urban neighborhood. These influences and others have played a crucial role in her interpretation of contemporary issues such as racism and violence, sexism and stereotypes. She still lives near the neighborhood where she grew up, seeing herself as a quasi-role model for area young people." See www.wallacefoundation.org/WF/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/ArtsParticipation/BaltimoreMuseum for this description and biographical information.

John Cederquist



"The Art of John Cederquist: Reality of Illusion," published by the Oakland Museum of California presents 50 pieces of furniture



Photo: Miriam Rosenthal

Smithsonian American Art Museum's newly renovated state of the art auditorium.

Saturday evening's gala dinner will again be planned and designed by Bonnie Schwartz, so it will be exceptional. The live auction will be coordinated by Sharon Buchanan and David Montague who promise a few new ideas to incorporate into the selection of exceptional craft pieces for the auction.

Cynthia Boyer is head of the silent auction, supported by Ruth Conant and Liz Mears. Jan Maddox and Julianna Mahley are in charge of managing the paper trails of contracts, photographs and production of the program/catalogue and the web site entries and updates. Judy Weisman, past auction chair for many years, will lend her guidance as needed.

Pat Arnold again will be in charge of the "backroom" the night of the auction. Miriam Rosenthal is the official photographer and will organize photographic efforts of all photographers. Clemmer Montague is developing a "Sponsor an Artist to the Auction" program.

Ginny Ruffner



"What is creativity? Creativity is problem solving. Any Problem. Creativity is equal parts of thought and action...a force that can't be stopped from blossoming...remain aware of the big picture. When your focus is restricted to the details of the problem, your vision and everything else is constricted, including your creativity." Excerpts from "Creativity: the Flowering Tornado, a Pop-up Gallery" by Ginny Ruffner. This book describes the attitude of Glass Master Ginny Ruffner whose life has been devoted to creativity. Her on-line biography is 14 pages of lists of her accomplishments, collections, exhibitions, publications, her professional background, lectures, grants and honors. But the most important aspect of her professional life as an artist is her devotion and loyalty to creativity as illustrated in this pop-up, published by the Montgomery (AL) Museum of Fine Art. Her 1990 solo exhibition at the Renwick Gallery was "The Possession of Creativity." See www.ginnyruffner.com for biographical information.

Reba encourages Alliance members to suggest craft artists to ask to participate in the auction. "Keep your eyes open for appropriate artists, and ask them if they would like to participate in the Renwick Alliance auction," she said.

The brunch Sunday, chaired by Laurel Mendelsohn and Leslie Lane, will wrap up the weekend events with presentations of the five masters of the medium. A special feature, back by popular demand, will be the original centerpieces coordinated by Tony Glander.

"It will be a wonderful weekend of special events, but it needs the support of all Alliance members. Plan now to be there and bring your friends," Reba concluded.

A New Beginning



A NEW BEGINNING FOR JRA starts with these officers: (from left) Diane Grainer, president; J.G. Harrington, treasurer; Julianna Mahley, secretary; Anne Mehninger, president-elect; Elaine Marks, vice president.

OOPS! WE GOOFED!

Corrections from Summer 2006 Quarterly

SPRING CRAFT WEEKEND: The "Patrons Picnic" was identified as the "Patrons Barbecue."

Hosts of the "Patrons Picnic" were Deena and Jerry Kaplan, not Deena Kaplan and Barbara Berlin.

"One-of-a-Kind" honoree Sam Rosenfeld was identified as Marshall Jacobs in the awards photo.

RENWICK INVITATIONAL: The picture of a detail of a glass sculpture by Beth Lipman was identified as that of Paula Bartron.

CAUCUS: Judy Davis organized the craft leaders caucus "Evening of Learning" with David and Wendy Ellsworth at Charles and Fleur Bresler's home.

SAVE THE DATES! } EVENTS IN 2006 & 2007

SEPTEMBER 2006

- 1 Ruth Duckworth, Modernist Sculptor opens at the Renwick Gallery – through Jan. 15
- 14 Opening Reception: Ruth Duckworth, Modernist Sculptor 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Renwick Gallery
- 15 Illustrated lecture – Ruth Duckworth Renwick Gallery, Grand Salon 12:00 PM
- 17 Craft Leaders Caucus, 11 a.m. Brunch with Ginny Ruffner, 2007 Master of The Medium
- 20 JRA Members Evening, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Renwick Gallery, Invitation only
- 27 JRA Acquisitions Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Renwick Gallery, Invitation only

OCTOBER 2006

- 6-8 Founders' Circle activities in Charlotte, NC Barbara and Arnie Berlin being honored - call JRA office for details
- 12-15 Craft Leaders Caucus Study Tour to Long Island
- 21 JRA day trip
- 28 JRA Distinguished Artists Series, Mary Roehm will lead a workshop. Reservations Required: 301.907.3888
- 28 Potluck for Mary Roehm, e-mail invitation
- 29 Distinguished Artist Lecture Series, Mary Roehm discusses her work Renwick Gallery, 3:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2006

- 9-12 SOFA CHICAGO
- 9 SOFA Chicago Opening Night Gala
- 11 SOFA Chicago JRA Members Breakfast
- 12 Friends of Fiber Art International-sponsored brunch and private collection tour (thru 4:30)
- 17 JRA-sponsored talks at Washington Craft Show
- 17-19 Washington Craft Show

DECEMBER 2006

- 2 JRA Day Trip
- JANUARY 2007
- 20 JRA Distinguished Artists Series, Chris Gustin will lead a workshop. Reservations Required: 301.907.3888
- 20 Potluck for Chris Gustin, e-mail invitation
- 21 Distinguished Artist Lecture Series, Chris Gustin discusses his work Renwick Gallery, 3:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2007

- TBA Craft Leaders Caucus Evening of Learning
- 23-25 ACC Sponsored Baltimore Craft Show

MARCH 2007

- 9 Biennial Craft Invitational, Renwick Galleryn through July 22
- 17 JRA Distinguished Artists Series, Barbara Lee Smith will work with participants on how to critique their own work. \$45 for JRA Members, to reserve 301.907.3888
- 17 Potluck for Barbara Lee Smith, e-mail invite
- 18 Distinguished Artist Lecture Series, Barbara Lee Smith discusses her work. Renwick Gallery, 3:00 p.m.
- 29 Opening Reception: Biennial Craft Invitational, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Renwick Gallery
- 30 JRA Craft Study Tour to Boston and surrounding area through April 2

APRIL 2007

- 18 Smithsonian Craft Show Opening
- 19-22 Smithsonian Craft Show
- 20 – 22 JRA Spring Craft Weekend
- 20 Caucus Day
- 20 Acquisitions Meeting
- 20 Patron's Event
- 21 Educational Symposium
- 21 Gala Dinner and Craft Auction
- 22 Masters of the Medium Awards Brunch

MAY 2007

- 5 JRA Distinguished Artists Series, Ron Desmett will lead a workshop Reservations Required: 301.907.3888
- 5 Potluck for Ron Desmett, e-mail invitation
- 6 Distinguished Artist Lecture Series, Ron Desmett discusses his work. Renwick Gallery, 3:00 p.m.
- 15-19 Craft Leaders Caucus Study Tour to Copenhagen
- 30 SOFA NY Opening
- 31 JRA activities at SOFA NY (through June 2)

James Renwick Alliance sponsored & co-sponsored programs are in bold type. For more information, call the JRA Office at (301) 907-3888, e-mail jraoffice@jra.org or check www.jra.org



JAMES
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Mint Museum of Craft + Design Honors Berlins

JRA Caucus members Barbara and Arnold (Arnie) Berlin have been selected as one of two recipients of the McColl Award, named by the Founders' Circle of the Mint Museum of Craft+Design, Charlotte, NC.

Peggy and Bob Culbertson of Charlotte is the other recipient. The awards will be presented at the Sixth Annual Mint Condition Gala on Saturday evening, Oct. 7 in Charlotte.

The McColl Award was established by the Founders' Circle and the MMC+D in 2001 in honor of its first recipient Hugh McColl, chairman and CEO of Bank of America. The award recognizes the gifted vision, extraordinary generosity as well as the endless energy (VISION+GENEROSITY+ENERGY) that are pivotal forces in the cultural community and essential to assuring the success of the Charlotte-based MMC+D as an internationally recognized venue for

promotion, collection and presentation of craft art.

Barbara was instrumental in founding the Founder's Circle and was its first president and succeeding president for two terms. She is a past president of the James Renwick Alliance. She has been chair of many committees, led the Caucus as chair for several years, and she is currently is on the Caucus committee.

Arnie is in his second term as a board member of JRA and is on the finance committee. His passion is the collection of Staffordshire figures.

The Berlins are generous supports of the Alliance and frequently invite JRA members and board members to their craft-filled home for meetings, celebrations, lectures and tours. Two of their children are artists, Kevin, painting and glass, and Danielle, fiber.

Judy Plans Caucus Events

Caucus events by Judy Davis, Craft Leaders Caucus Chair

Every time I walk into the James Renwick Gallery and see the Bronze Donor Board with caucus members' names listed, I am reminded of the commitment that these JRA members have to craft, scholarship and the art community; and that the James Renwick Alliance values these members.

The Craft Leaders Caucus has a history of showing its commitment to its members by providing year long added benefits, one of which is its trip benefit. In October, Rebecca Stevens, a JRA caucus member and textile curator, will lead a Caucus trip to New York/East Hampton, (check out Ed Harris's film "Pollack" on DVD before the trip.)

Miriam Bonner has been working non-stop since her visit to Denmark last spring to put together a fabulous five-day craft trip to Copenhagen, which she will lead with Jere Gibber in May; and George Mueller will be taking the group to St. Louis, his hometown, in the fall of 2007. Our thanks go out to Fran Burka, Caucus trip coordinator, for all her work in getting these caucus trips up and running.

Other benefits to Caucus membership include the popular "Evening of Learning" program which will continue in February with Ruth and Rick Snyderman, long time gallery caucus members, presenting a stimulating craft discussion.

David Montague arranged for a delightful brunch in honor of 2007 Master of the Medium glass artist Ginny Ruffner at the home of collectors Laurel and Bob Mendelsohn in September.

Plans are currently in the works to start an ongoing Caucus craft study group. And Sandy Mitchell, once again, is putting together an exciting "Caucus Day" activity to kick off Spring Craft Weekend.

We have heard your requests for more activities and will be providing interesting and fun programming to support our JRA Caucus community throughout the year, making sure to provide opportunities for our out-of-town members to stay connected.

We welcome your suggestions and look forward to another year of satisfying Caucus membership. Please look over the Caucus benefits listed elsewhere in this newsletter and join the Caucus community. You'll be glad you did.

Her Priority is Membership

Anne Mehringer, president-elect whose term as president begins July 1, 2007, has a clear concept of where she wants the Alliance to go during her tenure.

She states, "I would like to thank the board for selecting me as the next president of the James Renwick Alliance. I look forward to working with the board and the membership to build on our 25 years of accomplishments supporting contemporary American craft and the Renwick Gallery.

"In order to expand our support of American craft and the Gallery, we will have to raise more money which means expanding our membership, particularly our youthful membership. I believe that expanding membership and expanding programming go together.

"The way we gain members is through our activities. Trips have proven to be our most successful hook for drawing new active members, but they have less appeal for younger people, many of whom have children involved in a myriad of school and sports activities. We need to offer programming which will appeal to families. We also need to look beyond our local membership and

find a way of appealing to members outside the DC metropolitan area.

"This is a challenge the JRA has wrestled with since I joined the organization in 1989. I hope that we will come up with the right approach in the next couple of years," she concluded.



Anne Mehringer, president-elect.



MCCOLL AWARD RECIPIENTS Barbara and Arnold Berlin are recipients of the Founders' Circle Mint Museum of Craft+Design McColl Award for outstanding service to both organizations and the craft community.

Studios, Homes Artists of **Montgomery** County Are on JRA Study Tour

By Pat Arnold and Wanda Rappaport,
Tour Leaders

Join JRA members on Saturday, Oct. 21, for a tour of the art and artist filled communities of Montgomery County –A Vibrant Artist's Community: *Focus Inside the Beltway*. We shall visit a center dedicated to book and print arts, see the studios of artists whose public artworks are enriching local communities, explore a home renovation which used fine craft techniques throughout, and cap the day with visits to two wonderful collections.

We will tour Pyramid Atlantic, a unique art center focusing on contemporary paper, print and book arts and talk with local working artists. Our Pyramid Atlantic visit will coincide with two exhibitions, one featuring sculpture by Philadelphia artist

Jeanne Jaffe and the other, paintings and mixed media work by Texan Julia Kjegaard. Book, paper and print art by local artists will be available for purchase.

Pyramid Atlantic is also home to glass artist Kari Minnick whose kiln formed works are infused with drawings and calligraphic imagery on many layers within her work.

As we travel through the Montgomery County communities inside the Beltway, we will see some of the public art that has blossomed in Silver Spring, Bethesda and Takoma Park in recent years. We will be visiting some of the artists who created this work including:

- Home and studio of sculptors Judy Sutton Moore and Bill Moore.
- Home, studio and gardens of art

furniture maker and story teller Bodil Meloney.

As a special treat, we will stop for a catered lunch at the home of designer and glass artist Jackie Braitman. Jackie has renovated a Victorian style house in Takoma Park and integrated fine craft techniques and art into her renovations.

We will also have the pleasure of visiting two wonderful collections in Chevy Chase. Shirley and Marshall Jacobs have invited us into their home to see their collection of traditional African artifacts and contemporary fine craft. Marshall is also a fine wood-turner in his own right and will share his studio and work with us. Their collection was profiled in the August, 2005 edition of *American Style* magazine.

Our second hostess, Vivian Pollock, lives two blocks away. Her beautiful contemporary home showcases an eclectic collection of contemporary craft and fine art.

The cost of the craft study tour is \$105 per person for members and \$120 for non-members (the difference can be applied toward a JRA membership). This includes transportation, snacks and lunch and a \$25 tax-deductible, voluntary contribution to the James Renwick Alliance. Since we must limit the number of participants, the tour will be filled on a first-come basis.

You will receive a confirmation by e-mail message (our preferred method of communication) or letter by Friday, Oct. 6. Please contact Katie Mazzari, 301-907-3888, for questions.



March Trip **Begins** in Boston, Ends at Pioneer Valley for the Mass trip.

Leslie Ferrin, Clemmer Montague and Alliance members from Massachusetts invite you on a craft study tour "From Boston to Pioneer Valley: *Craft Discoveries from the Boston Bay area to the Connecticut River*" from Friday, Mar. 30, to Monday, Apr. 2, 2007.

The tour is for four days and three nights, one night in Boston at the Seaport Hotel across the street from Craft Boston and two at the Northampton Inn. Attendance is open to all Alliance members. The itinerary is subject to change.

Participants should arrive at Boston's Logan International Airport before 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Mar. 30; and depart from Hartford's Bradley International Airport after 4 p.m. on Monday, Apr. 2.

The trip starts at the Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, where Gretchen Keyworth, director, a JRA member and a tour participant, walks us through the museum's four exhibitions: shibori-dyed fabrics by Carter Smith; the Harvard University ceramics collection; Rhode Island School of Design alumni exhibition; and jewelry artist Thomas Mann's Katrina Series with photos of the aftermath and debris-made-into jewelry.

Private home visits are with Chris Rifkin in Hingham for a light lunch in her craft filled home: glass, furniture, fiber and jewelry, hidden in outstanding chests made by Tommy Simpson and Jay Stanger. We will be visiting the homes of Caucus members Michael and Karen Rotenberg on Beacon Hill and Dan Jacobson in Brookline for our welcome dinner in his barn-turned-into-a-house with our Boston hosts and local artists.

There is plenty of time in the late afternoon to shop for craft at the showroom of the Society of Arts and Crafts showroom on Newburg Street and at the Craft Boston Fair, sponsored by the Society, the oldest craft organization in the U.S.

Glass artist Sidney Hutter in Auburndale is on the early morning agenda, followed by gallery visits to Mobilia Gallery in Cambridge, owned by gallery caucus members JoAnne and Libby Cooper; and Lacoste Gallery in Concord with gallery caucus member Lucy Lacoste.

The Smith College Museum in Northampton is on a tour for its collection of 12 benches made by American furniture makers. The day ends and at the home, gallery and studios of Leslie Ferrin for dinner with resident artists Sergei Isupov, Michael McCarthy and Giselle Hicks.

Sunday activities will be gallery visits in Lenox to Ferrin Gallery (ceramics); Sienna Gallery (jewelry); Hoadley Gallery (mixed media); Holsten Gallery (glass) in Stockbridge; and Snow Hill Craft School. Dinner is with potter Mary Barringer, editor of *Studio Potter*, and local artist; dessert at the home of Roy (furniture) and Mara (ceramics) Superior, guests of the Alliance at the Gallery last May for an educational talk.

Final studio visits are on Monday at the fire station studio and home of Easthampton furniture maker Silas Kopf and the studio of glass master Josh Simpson in Shelburne Falls for a demonstration on how he makes those wonderful planet objects.

A flyer with a complete itinerary, costs and sign up information will be mailed in late October. Limit is 35 people. Guests are welcome to join members at an additional cost.



Mint Gala **Opens** Oct. 5-8

Susan McKeithen, president, and the Board of Directors of The Founders' Circle of the Mint Museum of Craft+Design cordially invite members of the James Renwick Alliance to its Collectors' Weekend. The weekend is in conjunction with the seventh annual Mint Condition Gala: Craft a Dream, a look to the future of a growing museum and its collection in a new building designed specifically to house its collection.

Collectors' Weekend and the Mint Condition Gala take place from Thursday, Oct. 5 through Sunday, Oct. 8, in Charlotte.

James Renwick Alliance Craft Leaders Caucus members Barbara Berlin, past president of JRA as well as the Founders' Circle, and Arnold Berlin, will be presented the McColl Award for outstanding service to the FC, the MMC + D and the craft community. Charlotte's Peggy and Bob Culbertson will also receive the award.

The Gala planners promise a vibrant and spectacular evening, abundant with craft treasures and gourmet dining, the Mint Condition Gala on Saturday, Oct. 7.

The Collectors' Weekend offers the following itinerary: visits to the homes of five Charlotte craft collectors; explore MMC+D galleries with Chief Curator Mark Leach; attend a private reception and curator-led tour of Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection; share the honors ceremony of the 2006 Founders' Circle Award to Lois Moran, editor-in-chief of *American Craft* magazine; shop at the local craft galleries; and attend an educational seminar on building a new museum.

Patrons will gather for a formal reception and silent auction Saturday night, followed by an elegant dinner and a live auction, benefiting the MMC+D. Sunday morning finds Lois Moran giving her perspective on the evolution and development of craft art during her tenure at the magazine, followed by a kinetic sculptures exhibition opening.

A group from the Founders' Circle visited Washington in April for the JRA Spring Craft Weekend.

Those interested should contact Anna Sims Caldwell, administrative assistant, at Anna.Caldwell@themintmuseums.org or telephone at 704-337-2008.



Photo: Miriam Rosenthal

Alliance members take Saturday, Oct. 21, to visit galleries, studios and homes of artists and collectors. Lunch is at the home of glass artist Jackie Braitman.

Gallery Spotlights:



HELLER GALLERY, NEW YORK is one of the early Gallery Caucus members. Heller Gallery represents glass artist Beth Lipman, one of the four artists selected for the Renwick Invitational, opening at the Renwick Gallery on Mar. 29.

Heller Gallery

Heller Gallery, New York, was one of the early galleries to become James Renwick Alliance Gallery Caucus members and continues to be one of the strongest supporters.

Owners are Douglas and Michael Heller. Heller Gallery has long been recognized for playing a seminal role in promoting contemporary sculpture that celebrates the use of glass as a fine art medium. For over 30 years Heller has exhibited the premier international artists working in glass and has been a valuable resource for artists, museums, collectors, public institutions and studios worldwide.

The artists who exhibit at Heller work in a broad range of styles and techniques and explore subject matter equally diverse. Some take on the material itself, testing its limits in monumental sculptures or exploring its fundamental qualities in works that play with the interactions of color, light, transparency and form. Others are more interested in delving into emotion and myth or commenting

on art history and do so in more expressive styles, casting figurative sculptures, painting on glass or composing elaborate assemblages of looping, brightly colored glass tubes, objects and images.

Since 1973, Heller Gallery has been at the center of the emergence of glass art, showing the work of the very artists – Tom Patti, Lino Tagliapietra, Bertil Vallien, Libensky/Brychtova and Karen LaMonte among them -- recognized for their maturity, mastery and vision.

After 8 years on Madison Avenue and 16 years in SoHo, Heller Gallery began its 25th year of business in a new 6800 sq. ft. bi-level space at 420 W.14th Street in Chelsea. Though the address has changed, Heller Gallery continues to exhibit contemporary sculpture with a focus on glass and the turned wood of the Moulthrop family. With exhibitions featuring new work by both internationally acclaimed and emerging artists, the gallery will remain an important destination for curators and collectors from around the world.

The gallery, 420 West 14th Street, New York, is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.hellergallery.com

Rossdhu Gallery

Diana and Dr. Gabe Mirkin have turned the former East German embassy building into their home and gallery after purchasing it when the Berlin wall fell and the East Germans returned to a unified Germany. Rossdhu Gallery is one of the newest Gallery Caucus member.

Their street, Rossdhu Court (pronounced *Ros'-dew*), was named after the castle that stood where the cul-de-sac is today. Many old-timers remember the huge house and skated on the pond that formed its "moat." Rossdhu Castle was built in 1927 by Captain Clarence Calhoun on a 90 acre site. The house was modeled after **Rossdhu House**, ancestral home of the Clan Colquhoun and now Loch Lomond Golf Club, in Scotland. Cornerstones for the Calhoun's extravagant house came from ancient Scottish castles, and the great hall

measured 60'x40'. A conservatory opened onto a terrace and bowling green with Scottish turf, overlooking the gateway lodge and pond. The building was demolished in the late 50s and the site divided and sold as private lots, the current building constructed in the mid 60s-70s. The East Germans bought it in 1975 and used it until the end of the cold war. The Mirkins purchased it in the early 90s and re-modeled it into its current state, including living, office and gallery space.

The Mirkins and Manager Sue Smith show fine contemporary craft and photography from local Washington, DC area artists, as well as work by Portland glass blower Christopher Rich.

"We like to show the work of local artists who do not have gallery representation," Diana said. "I have created my own internal jurying from artists who bring or send me samples of their work."

"I want to take advantage of my Renwick Alliance Gallery membership in creative ways to promote the work of local artists," she concluded.

The current show, until Sept. 30, is photographs by Rona Eisner; hand blown glass by Chris Rich; and silk wearables and glass jewelry by Cindy Brandt.

The fall show that opens on Saturday, Oct. 21 is *Colors of Autumn*, featuring photographs by Rona Eisner. The Holiday Show and Sale opens on Friday, Dec. 1, with work by a number of artists.

The address is 7608 Rossdhu Court, Chevy Chase, MD. Telephone is 301-951-4443. Admittance is now by appointment, and standard hours of operation will be posted soon. Web site www.rossdhugallery.com gives a complete history of the property, its artists and concepts of exhibition.

Roehm, Gustin Begin Artists Lecture Series

Two ceramists, a fabric and mixed media artist, and one glass maker form the James Renwick Alliance Distinguished Craft Lecture Series this year.

Mary Roehm of High Falls, NY, leads off the series with her artistic insight of her ceramics at the Renwick Gallery Sunday, Oct. 29. Chris Gustin of South Dartmouth, MA, talks about his approach to his work at the Gallery on Jan. 21. Barbara Lee Smith, Gig Harbor, WA, describes her extraordinary mixed media technique in making fabric on Mar. 18; and Ron Desmett of Oakdale, PA, near Pittsburgh, discusses his way of forming glass vessels on May 5.

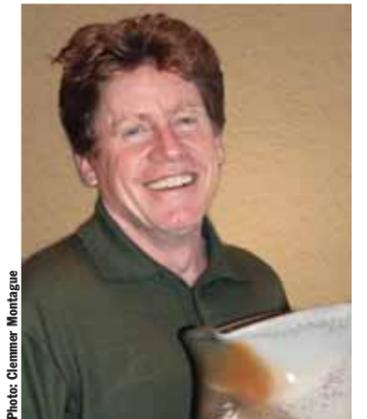
All four lectures are at the Renwick on Sundays at 3 p.m.

The JRA takes advantage of having distinguished craft artists in town with a workshop on Saturday the day before, followed by a potluck dinner at a member's home in the evening.

Mary will demonstrate her amazing ability to throw unbelievably thin porcelain pots on Saturday, Oct. 28, followed by an afternoon critique of participants' work. She suggests that participants bring samples of their work, or, if collectors, a piece from their collection to discuss.



MARY ROEHM works on an idea for a new series. She is the Distinguished Craft Artist lecturer at the Renwick Gallery on Sunday at 3 p.m. on Oct. 29.



CHRIS GUSTIN with "Blue Chino," collection of Ann and Harry Wollman, Woodstock, VT., is the second lecturer in the Artist Series at the Renwick Gallery on Sunday, Jan. 21, at 3 p.m.

Chris Gustin also demonstrates his way of throwing and coiling massively large porcelain and stoneware vessels on Saturday, Jan. 20. His lecture is on Sunday, Jan. 21. Location for both workshops is the studio of Margaret Boozer at the Red Dirt Studio, 3706-08 Otis Street, Mt. Rainier, MD.

Barbara Lee Smith creates an intricate surface composed of stitched line, printed and painted pigments, and collaged fabrics to capture atmospheric and landscape references across large expanses, and her lecture is on Sunday, Mar. 18, the workshop on critiquing is scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 17 and the potluck that night.

Glass maker Ron Desmett will demonstrate his unique technique of forming vessels by blowing glass into hollowed out tree trunks. He and his wife Kathleen Mulcahy were instrumental in building the Pittsburgh Glass Center. His lecture is on Sunday, May 5. The workshop is on May 4.

Binnie Fry, workshop chair, will send out format announcements and sign up information as the date for each workshop approaches.

JRA EVENTS AT SOFA

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION OF
SCULPTURE OBJECTS & FUNCTIONAL ART:
SOFA CHICAGO 2006
FESTIVAL HALL, NAVY PIER
NOVEMBER 10 - 12,

Thursday, Nov. 9,
5-9 p.m. Preview Opening Meet Katie at
the JRA table in Resources

Friday, Nov. 10,
4:30 p.m. Afternoon reception Ferrin
Gallery

Saturday, Nov. 11,
10 a.m. Annual JRA Membership Brunch.
RSVP required

Nov. 12 Friends of Fiber Art
International Tour

*Sunday, November 12 -
Tentative schedule for tour of private tour
10:45 am Depart hotel (TBA)
11:00 Arrive Chicago Cultural Center
Brunch with Friends of Fiber
Art International members.
Self-guided walk-through with
many artists available for con-
versation

1:05 pm Arrive at office building to
view Marilee Unruh, quilts:
contemporary and traditional

1:50 Depart
2:05 Arrive private collection
2:55 Depart
3:15 Arrive private basket collection
3:50 Depart
4:20 Arrive O'Hare airport

* See article on Fiber Arts International
invitation.

This issue of the Quarterly introduces a new segment which will focus on artist members of JRA. To start the series, studio furniture maker and blacksmith Chris Shea describes his experience as a first-time participant in the Spring Craft Weekend auction last April.

Shea Describes Gala Auction Artist Commissions

By Chris Shea

I've been working as a professional craft artist in the Washington, DC area for 10 years. That time was spent in part working with more established artists - jewelers, silversmiths and blacksmiths - developing my skills, nurturing my particular vision as a designer, and building the wide knowledge and expertise needed to run a working blacksmith studio. Out on my own for the past few years and feeling confident in my work, I decided it was time to take my blinders off, venture out of my studio in the woods, and get more involved with other artists and collectors.

One of the first things I did, under the sponsorship of Clemmer and David Montague, was to join JRA and begin attending openings and lectures. The Renwick Gallery has always had a special place in my heart. Along with a particular Rembrandt self-portrait at the National Gallery, Albert Paley's "Portal Gates" at the Renwick are a kind of artistic home base for me, an extraordinary creation I return to when I need to remind myself what all the hard work is for. So, when Judy Weisman asked me for a piece for the JRA auction, I was happy to say yes. I designed a new furniture piece, the "Arthropod Side Table" in hand-forged steel and cast glass, especially for the event.

The day of the auction was terrific. I took advantage of the opportunity to meet Albert

Paley and hear him discuss his work at the afternoon symposium on public commissions. At the gala, my table was displayed beautifully, and when it came up in the auction, the bidding was intense. In the end, the table went home with Bruce and Lesley Lane for well above the announced price, bringing in several thousand dollars for the JRA.

One reason my table did so well in the auction, I learned later, was the glowing appraisal of Gallery Caucus Member Lewis Wexler, owner of Wexler Gallery in Philadelphia. While I like to believe my work can speak for itself, I appreciate the impact a respected connoisseur can have in highlighting the value of an artist's work. Lewis had never seen my work before that night, but after the auction, he offered to represent me. Today, I'm pleased to say, another of the limited edition side tables is on display in Wexler Gallery, alongside pieces by Albert Paley and Wendell Castle.

I can honestly say the auction has been one of the high points of my career. My wife, Dana, and I have really enjoyed our first year in the JRA - the events and all the interesting people we've met. We're very much looking forward to the coming season.

Future articles in this series will focus on other artist members, as well as commissions of new works created both by and for JRA members.



BIDS HIGH FOR TABLE AT AUCTION: Chris Shea's "Arthropod Side Table" was a popular item at the Spring Craft Weekend gala/auction in April.

Alliance Takes A Vote on Three Pieces for Renwick Gallery

The James Renwick Alliance Acquisitions Committee met in September to vote on three pieces for the Renwick Gallery collection. They are: Chunghi Choo's silver plated copper vessel, *Flower Blooms*; Chris Gustin's stoneware, *Vessel #0508*, and Karen Stahlecker's handmade paper and mixed media, *Vortices and Reveries*.

Jane Milosch, Renwick Gallery curator, explained each piece's relevance to and place in the permanent collection.

The acquisitions committee is made up of founding members, all present board members, all former board members in the

first two years after completion of their service, craft leaders caucus members, and past presidents, according to the by-laws. The subcommittee works with museum officials, notably the Curator Jane Milosch, in choosing the artists and pieces for the subcommittee to recommend to the acquisitions committee. The meeting of the acquisitions committee, as described, is to confirm her selections as JRA gifts to the museum.

Acquisitions subcommittee chair Judy Weisman expressed her appreciation to former subcommittee chair Marge Kalodner and her committee members: Phil Brown, Lenel Strochi-Meyerhoff, Cynthia Boyer, Toni Gordon, Sharon Buchanan and Alan Jacobs who approved the selections.

Caucus Studies Danish Craft

A five-day Caucus Craft Leaders study trip to Copenhagen, Denmark, is planned for May 15-19, 2007.

By Miriam Bonner, Trip Leader

The group will visit several galleries well-known to those who attend SOFA - Gallerie Norby (ceramics), Gallerie Gronlund (studio glass), and Gallerie Tactus (hollowware and jewelry). A visit to Gallery Drud & Koppe, recently established by Bettina Koppe, former director of Gallerie Norby, and opening this fall, is planned. The gallery represents artists working in different media.

Visits to artist studios, always an enjoyable part of JRA trips, will range from well-known artists such as Steen Ipsen, Michael Geertsen and Morten Lobner Espersen to artists whose work is less familiar to Americans. Most of the trip is centered on Copenhagen where the major galleries, museums and many artist studios are located.

There will be opportunities to see Danish countryside with short trips to Skaelskor to visit the International Ceramic Research Center, the historical city of Roskilde and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, located on the coast north of Copenhagen. The trip will be an exciting five days of great design, exciting art, good food and fine company.

Jere Gibber and I are the trip leaders. Detailed information on the trip was mailed to Caucus members in mid-September 2006.

Caucus Trips

Caucus trips by Fran Burka

The first Caucus trip of the season will be to New York and the Hamptons on Long Island. The trip, led by Rebecca Stevens and Irene Sinclair, will visit several collections, including the apartment of Nan Laitman, president of the Museum of Arts and Design, as well as a guided Chelsea gallery tour, Julie Artisans and other galleries. Highlights of the weekend will be visits to the East Hampton house of Jack Lenor Larsen and the recently opened Jackson Pollock-Lee Krasner Studio and Museum. The dates of the trip are October 12 -15, and there are still a few spaces left.

We will be going abroad in the spring with an exciting trip to Denmark, led by Miriam Bonner and Gere Gibber. This will take place May 15-19, 2007. Among the many planned visits

are the Gallery Norby, a leading ceramic studio, Gallerie Gronlund which specializes in glass, and the Louisiana Museum of Contemporary Art. Notices and the opportunity to sign up will come soon.

The fall, 2007 trip will be to St. Louis, led by George Mueller, probably in mid-October. This trip will include private collections and craft galleries as well as visits to artists.

Finally, Larry Hawk and his mother, Frances, invite Caucus travelers to Kansas City in the spring of 2008. This study tour will highlight the rich history of that city in ceramics, a visit to the Kansas City Art Institute where master ceramicist Ken Ferguson taught and worked, and the Kansas City current involvement in the craft movement.



Photo: Miriam Rosenthal

KATIE MAZZARI is the JRA office administrator. She is a graduate of American University with a degree in arts administration.



JAMES
RENWICK
ALLIANCE

JRA Board of Directors

2006 - 2007 Meeting Dates

September 12

October 10

December 12

January 16

March 13

May 8

June 12

The Renwick Gallery Opens Duckworth Exhibition

From SAAM press room

Ruth Duckworth, Modernist Sculptor is on view at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum from Sept. 1 through Jan. 15, 2007. It is the last stop for this nationally touring comprehensive retrospective.

The exhibition positions Duckworth within the modernist movement and provides an assessment of her contributions to the contemporary art world. It features 80 artworks including wall reliefs, free-standing sculpture and sculptural vessels. Many of the pieces are from the artist's private collection, including carvings and maquettes that are exhibited publicly for the first time.

Duckworth works with a wide range of materials and techniques, including stone carving, metal fabrication and bronze casting, but her most important output has been in clay. A progression of her vanguard vessels and wall reliefs shows her moving away from functionalism to explore purely sculptural qualities.

"Ruth Duckworth, Modernist Sculptor" is organized in three sections, linked by chronology and theme. The exhibition's first section features Duckworth's early works, from her initial years as a studio artist living in London. The second section contains Duckworth's abstract figurative works, free-standing ceramic sculptures and wall panels. The exhibition places Duckworth's work in context with other modernist sculptors of her era and demonstrates the artist's appreciation of Bronze Age implements and Cycladic figures from ancient Greece. The third section presents a selection of the artist's mature work. The exhibition also includes a 30-minute video, "Ruth Duckworth: A Life in Clay," which runs continuously.

Renwick Fellows Begin Research

The Smithsonian American Art Museum announced the appointment of two James Renwick Fellows in American Craft for the 2006-2007 academic year. The museum's program grants awards for scholars and students to pursue research at the museum, including senior, predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships.

The Renwick fellows are: Marie Frank, James Renwick Postdoctoral Fellow in American Craft, University of Massachusetts, Lowell: *Denman Ross and American Formalist Aesthetics in the Early Twentieth Century*, and Kimberly Hyde, James Renwick Predoctoral Fellow in American Craft, Case Western Reserve University: *Louis C. Tiffany and the Business of Art*. Marie Frank

Marie describes herself and her research this way. "I received my PH.D degree from the University of Virginia in architectural history and am now teaching in the Department of Cultural Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell campus. I am interested in the rise of formalist design aesthetic at the end of the 19th century. My earlier work addressed how architectural educators in the late 19th century and early 20th century used new methods to encourage creativity in their students' design work. One of the popular methods was devised by Denman Ross, an instructor at Harvard University. He called his method *The Theory of Pure Design*. "For my project at the Smithsonian, I want to broaden my knowledge of Ross beyond architecture into painting and the decorative

arts. Ross achieved a national reputation in the early 20th century through his teaching and his publications. I think he serves as good, concrete means to understand and evaluate formalist aesthetics in America," Marie concluded. She arrived to begin her research in early September.

Kimberly Hyde
Kimberly Hyde, James Renwick Predoctoral Fellow in American Craft, Case Western Reserve University: *Louis C. Tiffany and the Business of Art* describes her research.

"I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Art History and Art at Case Western Reserve University. My dissertation examines Louis Comfort Tiffany's design and business practices by focusing on the parallel development of his visual aesthetic and the pattern of his promotional activities throughout the course of his career.

"At the Smithsonian, my research centered on the design process that Tiffany employed and the hanging role that he played in the creation of objects which bore his name. It has long been known that Tiffany hired talented designers to create windows, lamps and interiors, yet the role of these men and women has never been closely analyzed. The resources and available at the Smithsonian afford me the opportunity to identify Tiffany's designers and examine the evolution of the design empire he created and maintained for close to half a century," Kimberly said.

Both scholars talked about their research in depth at a general membership meeting of JRA members in mid September.

Obituary

Edwin A. (Ned) Hansen, 84, a member of the James Renwick Alliance and husband of Gallery Owner Sally Hansen, died Jun. 20 at Georgetown University Hospital. He developed pneumonia and other complications after a fall at his Washington home in March.

Mr. Hansen was a Defense Department intelligence analyst from in 1951 and worked at Fort Meade. He had two tours in Australia, totaling more than seven years in the 1950s and 1960s.

During his second tour from 1963-1968, he was the senior U.S. liaison officer. He retired in 1979.

Mr. Hansen was born in New York City and was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University. After serving as a Navy intelligence officer in World War II, he received a master's degree in English in the late 1940s from Harvard University and did additional graduate work there. He and Sally were married in 1944 in Milton, MA.

He made long standing friendships with Australian art and antique dealers, gallery cura-

tor and numerous artists. He and Sally acquired a unique collection of Australian art and paintings, many of Australian landscapes which were on loan to the newly refurbished ambassador's residence in Washington, D.C., for a recent visit of Prime Minister John Howard.

Mr. Hansen and Sally became owners of the Glass Gallery in Bethesda in 1981, one year before the birth of the James Renwick Alliance. The gallery presented work of nationally recognized artists working in glass and of many Australian glass artists. He served as treasurer of the gallery which drew collectors from all

over the country. The gallery which was in Friendship Heights closed on Jul. 31 this year.

He was a music enthusiast and held season subscriptions to the National Symphony Orchestra and the Washington National Opera. He also supported the Farmland Trust and the Nature Conservancy.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Sarah (Sally) Hansen; two children, Deborah Trunzo of North Potomac and David Hansen of Australia; a brother and five grandchildren.

600 Craft Items Stored in Luce Center

From SAAM press room

The Smithsonian American Art Museum's Luce Foundation Center for American Art is the first visible art storage and study center in Washington, D.C. This innovative new public space, opened since July 1, provides new ways to experience American art. The Luce Foundation Center's imaginative design allows visitors to select an area to explore at a glance with more than 3,300 works from the permanent collection in 64 secure glass cases.

The Luce Foundation Center, which occupies 20,400 square feet on the third and fourth floors of the museum's historic building, features paintings densely hung on screens; sculptures, contemporary craft and folk art objects arranged on shelves; and portrait miniatures, bronze medals and jewelry in drawers that slide open with the touch of a button. Six hundred craft objects are on display.

Claire Larkin, special projects director at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, developed the concepts for the Center, and oversaw design and production of the custom casework, the preparation of interpretive materials and the installation of artworks. Larkin worked with Luce Foundation Center curator George Speer, who headed the team that prepared the interpretive materials on each of the artworks. She and Speer worked closely with the museum's curators and conservators to prepare all the artworks for display.

Interactive computer kiosks provide the public with information about every object on display, including a discussion of each artwork, artist biographies, audio interviews, still images and nearly 70 videos created exclusively for the Center. A special Web site for the Center, www.lucefoundationcenter.si.edu, features these resources.

The Henry Luce Foundation gave \$10 million in 2001 to establish the Luce Foundation Center for American Art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

See Fiber Shows in Chicago

In conjunction with SOFA Chicago, Nov. 9-12, 2006, the James Renwick Alliance is pleased to invite you to a special program which is being sponsored by the Friends of Fiber Arts International on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006.

The program will feature a private viewing of contemporary fiber art objects from Midwest collections entitled *Material Difference: Soft Sculpture and Wall Works*. The show will be presented at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington Street, entrance across the street from the Millennium Park.

Alliance members are invited to a Sunday morning brunch reception at the Cultural Center in honor of the participating artists. Following brunch and the opportunity to talk with participating artists, a special tour of fiber art collections in an office space and in private homes has been planned with bus transportation.

Caucus Members Meet Ginny Ruffner at Special Brunch

The James Renwick Alliance Craft Leaders sponsored a brunch reception in honor of artist Ginny Ruffner on Sunday, Sept. 17, at the Bethesda home of Bob and Laurel Mendelsohn.

The Alliance recently announced that Ginny Ruffner has been selected as a Master of the Medium in the field of glass. This award will be presented to Ginny during Spring Craft Weekend which will take place from Apr. 20-22, 2007.

Ginny Ruffner was in Washington, DC for the opening reception "Meet the Artist" at the Maurine Littleton Gallery that afternoon. The show is entitled *Aesthetic Engineering Series* and features new work from 2006. The Maurine Littleton Gallery is located at 1667 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC.

The James Renwick Alliance is thrilled that Ginny Ruffner, whom its members voted to be

Following this special tour, the bus will take participants to O'Hare International Airport, arriving at 4:15 p.m.

This announcement is to alert interested members that there is a Sunday program planned in Chicago on Nov. 12 and to plan their airline schedule accordingly. The tour bus will pick up participants at a time and place to be determined. If there is enough interest, it may be possible to schedule transportation to Midway Airport as well, although the arrival time there could be up to an hour later.

The estimated cost of this special program is \$75 per person. The final cost will depend on participation levels and a possible extra fee for a Midway Airport drop off.

Please register for this event as soon as possible to help expedite the planning process. The Alliance will invite participants when the final cost is determined. David Montague is contact for this event.

this year's Master of the Medium in glass, is having a show in Washington, DC to kick off the fall season. The Craft Leaders Caucus is proud to have sponsored the brunch reception in honor of Ginny Ruffner and strongly encourages its members to see her latest work at the Maurine Littleton Gallery, a member of the Alliance's Gallery Caucus.



Gallery Caucus member Maurine Littleton Gallery in Georgetown opened the season with an exhibition of Ginny Ruffner's work including this piece entitled: *The Aesthetic Engineering Series: Sub-atomic Schematic of a Beauty Gene, 2006*.

Join the James Renwick Alliance

REGISTRATION

Yes, I want to join the James Renwick Alliance at the level of:

- Donor (\$100)
- Guild (\$50) for craft artists
- ART (\$70) for contributors under the age of 40
- Sponsor (\$250)
- Sustainer (\$500)
- Craft Leader Caucus (\$1000, \$1500 double)
- Gallery Caucus Member (\$1000)
- Benefactor (\$2500)
- Grand Salon Patron (\$5000)
- Renwick Society (\$10,000 and up)

I wish to make a contribution to the James Renwick Alliance in the amount of

\$ _____

- Renewal New Member

Name (s) _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Fax _____
 e-mail: _____

- I have friends who would be interested in learning about the Alliance. Please call me for names and addresses.

Circle One:

Check Enclosed VISA MasterCard Discover

Please make check payable to James Renwick Alliance

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

If you would like to make your contribution in the form of securities, please call our office for instructions.

Please return this completed form to:

James Renwick Alliance
 4405 East-West Highway, Suite 510
 Bethesda, MD 20814

CONTRIBUTOR BENEFITS

Donor (\$100)

- The *Quarterly*, the newsletter and e-mail craft bulletin.
- Invitations to Renwick Gallery openings and exhibitions tours conducted by artists and curators.
- Unique craft study tours to artists' studios, private collections and special exhibitions.
- A 20% discount in the Renwick museum shop.

Guild (\$50) For craft artists

- Same benefits as donor plus
- Reduced fee for workshops.

Art (Alliance for Renwick Tomorrow) (\$70)

For contributors under the age of 40.

- Same benefits as donor.

Sponsor (\$250)

- Same benefits as Donor plus
- Complimentary book/catalog of a Renwick Gallery exhibition.

Sustainer (\$500)

- Same benefits as Sponsor plus
- One annual gift membership at the Donor level.

Craft Leaders Caucus (\$1000, \$1500 double)

- Same benefits as Sustainer plus
- Vote on acquisitions to be funded by the Alliance for the Renwick Gallery.
- Invitation to special programs.
- Name listed on plaque in Renwick Gallery lobby.
- Opportunity to participate in extended craft study tours within the United States and abroad.

Gallery Caucus Member (\$1000)

- Same benefits as Craft Leader Caucus plus
- Publicity for your gallery, Web site link, and more. Call (301) 907-3888 for details.

Benefactor (\$2500)

- Same benefits as Craft Leader Caucus plus
- Private tour for four at craft collector's home.

Grand Salon Patron (\$5000)

- Same benefits as Benefactor plus
- Free admission for two to all Spring Craft Weekend activities (a \$1,200 value).
- Recognition in the invitation and Benefit Auction catalog for Craft Weekend.

Renwick Society (\$10,000 and up)

- Same benefits as Grand Salon Patron plus
- A work of art purchased by the JRA for the Renwick Gallery will honor the donor.

Questions?

contact the JRA office

301.907.3888

301.907.3855 fax

jraoffice@jra.org

Renwick Gallery Exhibition Schedule

Ruth Duckworth, Modernist Sculptor
 Sept. 1, 2006, to Jan. 2, 2007

"Ruth Duckworth, Modernist Sculptor" is a comprehensive retrospective that positions Duckworth within the modernist movement and provides an overdue assessment of her contributions to the contemporary art world. The traveling exhibition will feature approximately 80 ceramic works including wall reliefs, freestanding sculpture and sculptural vessels. Many of the works are from the artist's private collection, including stone carvings and maquettes that will be exhibited publicly for the first time. In addition, the exhibition will incorporate photographs of Duckworth's large scale architectural murals and site specific sculptures, and a video documenting her life's work.

Renwick Invitational
 Mar. 9, 2007, to July 22, 2007

The 2007 "Renwick Craft Invitational," a biennial exhibition series at the Renwick Gallery established in 2000 to honor the creativity and talent of craft artists working today, will feature glass artist Paula Bartron, paper artist Jocelyn Châteauevert, glass artist Beth Lipman and ceramicist Beth Cavener Stichter. The artists were chosen by Susanne Frantz, independent curator and former curator of 20th-century glass at the Corning Museum of Glass in New York; Lloyd Herman, independent curator and founding director of the Renwick Gallery; and Jane Milosch, curator at the Renwick Gallery. Milosch is the exhibition curator.

Going West: Quilts and Community,
 Oct. 5, 2007, to Jan. 21, 2008

"Going West: Quilts and Community" reveals the essential role that quilts and the making of quilts played in the lives of women on the frontier. The Great Platte River Road was the principal route for America's western expansion as early as the 1830s. Pioneers headed for a new life in the Nebraska Territory packed their wagons with necessities that almost always included quilts. Quilts served an important purpose along the difficult journey, whether used as sturdy domestic bedding along the trail or packed tenderly in the trunk as a tie to all that had been left behind. Independent curator Sandi Fox is the guest curator for the exhibition, which will feature more than 50 quilts. 

Craft Events Elsewhere

By Brenda Erickson

CLAY: New Britain Museum of Art in Connecticut will show over 50 pieces by Mara Superior New/Now from Oct. 22 until Dec. 31.

A retrospective major clay artists that includes Toshiko Takaezu, From Raku to Ray Guns: Ceramics since 1960 can be seen at the Delaware Art Museum through Feb.11.

As part of its practice of featuring solo craft artists, the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art in Sedalia, MO will feature ceramist Ruth Borgenicht: Articulated Spaces and metalsmith Matthew Zupnick: Adjustments until Jan. 14.

The James Renwick Alliance is proud to acknowledge the support of the following Gallery Caucus Members

Arts Afire

Joseph Egerton
 102 North Fayette Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314
 703-838-9785
www.artsafire.com

The Bullseye Gallery

Lani McGregor
 Portland, OR 97209
www.bullseyegallery.com

cross mackenzie ceramic arts

Rebecca Cross and Max MacKenzie
 1054 31st Street
 NW Washington DC 20007
 202-270-6695

del Mano Gallery

Jan Peters and Ray Leier
 11918 San Vincente
 Los Angeles CA 90049
 1-800-delMano
www.delmano.com

Ferrin Gallery

Leslie Ferrin
 69 Church Street
 Lenox, MA 01240
 413-637-4414
www.ferringallery.com

Frank Lloyd Gallery

Frank Lloyd
 2525 Michigan Avenue
 Santa Monica, CA 90404
 310-264-3866
www.franklloyd.com

Franklin Parrasch Gallery

Franklin Parrasch
 20 West 57th Street
 New York, NY 10019
 212 246 5360
www.franklinparrasch.com

Heller Gallery

Douglas and Michael Heller
 420 West 14th Street
 New York, NY 10014
 212-414-4014
www.hellergallery.com

Habatat Galleries

Ferdinand Hampson
 4400 Fernlee Avenue
 Royal Oak, MI 48070
 248-554-0590
 and

222 West Superior Street
 Chicago, IL 60601
 312-440-0288
www.habatat.com

Lacoste Gallery

Lucy Lacoste
 25 Main Street
 Concord, MA 01742
www.Lacostegallery.com

Leo Kaplan Modern

Scott Jacobson
 41 East 57th Street, 7th Floor
 New York, NY 10022
 212-872-1616
www.LKMmodern.com

Maurine Littleton Gallery

Maurine Littleton
 1667 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20007
 202-333-9307
www.littletongallery.com

Marx-Saunders Gallery

Bonnie Marx and Ken Saunders
 230 West Superior Street
 Chicago, IL 60610
 312-573-1400
www.marxsaunders.com

Mobilia Gallery

Libby and Jo Anne Cooper
 358 Huron Avenue
 Cambridge MA 02138
 (617) 876-2109
www.mobilia-gallery.com

Patina Gallery

Ivan and Allison Barnett
 131 West Palace Avenue
 Santa Fe, NM 87501
 505-986-3432
www.patina-gallery.com

Perimeter Gallery

Frank Paluch
 210 West Superior Street
 Chicago, IL 60610
 312.266.9473
www.perimetergallery.com

R. Duane Reed Gallery

Duane Reed
 7513 Forsyth Blvd.
 St. Louis MO 63103
 (314) 862-2333

www.rduanereedgallery.com

Rosdhu Gallery
 Diana Mirkin
 7608 Rosdhu Court
 Chevy Chase, MD 20815
 301 951 4443
www.rossdhugallery.com

Snyderman-Works Gallery

Ruth and Rick Snyderman
 303 Cherry Street
 Philadelphia PA 19106
 (215) 238-9576
www.snyderman-works.com

Thirteen Moons Gallery

Jane Sauer
 652 Canyon Road
 Santa Fe, NM 87501
 505-995-8513
www.thirteenmoonsgallery.com

Wexler Gallery

Lewis Wexler
 201 North 3rd Street
 Philadelphia PA 19106-1901
 (215) 923-7030
www.wexlergallery.com

FIBER: The Friends of Fiber Art International celebrates its 15th anniversary with a present of Material Difference: Soft Sculpture and Wall Works at the Chicago Cultural Center from Nov. 4 to Jan. 7.

Marie Watt, wall-hung fiber works, is traveling to the Boise Art Museum thru Jan. 21.

Woven Together: Voices in Basketry, which features 12 contemporary basketmakers including John McQueen is paired with more historic Baskets from the Willard E. Yager Collection thru Dec. 10 at the Yager Museum of Art & Culture in Oneonta, New York.

Robert Ebendorf and Ken Botnick curated Bound Visions: Artists' Books that is showing at the Craft Alliance in St. Louis until Nov. 5.

GLASS: Steven Sizelove, Glass in the Flame: A Contemporary Exploration of Venetian Design opens December 1and runs to Jan. 28 at the Indianapolis Art Center.

The Robert Lehman Gallery at Urban Glass in Brooklyn is showing

Making Sense through Nov. 11.

Trajectories: Exploring Contemporary Glass Beadmaking can be seen at the Bead Museum on Glendale, AZ, through Mar. 16.

Kickin' It with Joyce J. Scott will be at the San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design from Nov. 10 to Jan. 7.

METAL: Muskegon Museum of Art in Michigan paired new work in Shaped in Metal with some of oldest metal art in Age of Armor. The shows run to Nov.5.

Formed and Fabricated presents over 20 metalsmith artists at the Lill Street Gallery in Chicago starting Dec. 2 and running to Jan. 8.

Metalsmiths and Mentors: Fred Fenster and Eleanor Moty at the University of Wisconsin travels down to the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis on Nov. 19 and goes till Feb. 11.

Working from New Orleans, Thomas Mann: Storm Cycle, An Artist Responds to Hurricane Katrina presents a personal view of that tragedy at the Arkansas Arts Center

in Little Rock until Nov. 5.

WOOD: For those whose wish a historical study of furniture, Biedermeier: The Invention of Simplicity is at the Milwaukee Art Museum Through Jan. 1.

Turning Wood into Art, The Jane and Arthur Mason Collection can be seen on the west coast at the Bellevue Art Museum in Washington starting on Dec. 12 to Mar.11.

Long Beach Museum of Art is presenting the work of two premier woodturners: first, Transforming Vision: The Wood Sculpture of William Hunter, 1970-2005 from Oct. 6 to Dec. 10 and later River of Destiny: The Life and Art of Binh Pho from Dec. 8 to Mar. 4.

Connection: International Turning Exchange 1995-2005 will be at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum in Logan, KS form Dec. 1 through Jan. 28. .

The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, ME will show Chairs North by Northeast in its gallery from Nov. 30 until Mar. 1

James Renwick Alliance Welcomes New Members

JRA New Members
 May 1-Sept. 6, 2006

Guild:

Bonnie Granek,
 Columbia, MD
 C.B. Rice,
 Washington, DC
 Billy E. Schley,
 Washington, DC
 Lynn Sures,
 Wheaton, MD

Donor:

Abbey Chase,
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 Beatrice Chang,
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 Margorie Hoachlander,
 North Bethesda, MD
 Harry and Judy Linowes,
 Bethesda, MD
 Josh Simpson,
 Shelburne, MA

Gallery Caucus:
 Habatat Galleries, Inc.,
 Royal Oak, MI

Renewed Upgrades:
 Eleanor Rosenfeld,
 Chevy Chase, MD
 (Individual Caucus)

Renewals
 05-01-06 – 09-05-06:
 35



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James Renwick Alliance
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25 Years: A Celebration of
American Craft



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**Invitational Opening
set for March 29**

A panel of three distinguished experts in American crafts and decorative arts has selected glass artist Paula Bartron, papermaker Jocelyn Châteauevert, glass artist Beth Lipman and ceramicist Beth Cavener Stichter for the 2007 Renwick Craft Invitational. This biennial exhibition is made possible through The Ryna and Melvin Cohen Family Foundation Endowment. The Invitational will open at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum on Mar. 29.

Paula Bartron, an American who resides in Stockholm, Sweden, creates blown and cast glass sculptures with an emphasis on minimal geometric

forms and pure lines. Jocelyn Châteauevert, who resides in Charleston, S.C., uses handmade paper and metalsmithing techniques to create ethereal jewelry, lighting designs and installations. Beth Lipman, who resides in Sheboygan Falls, W.S., translates 17th- and 18th-century still life paintings into three-dimensional blown and lampworked glass sculpture. Beth Cavener Stichter of Portage, Ohio, creates clay sculptures that focus on human psychology articulated through animal and human forms

The artists were chosen by Susanne Frantz, independent curator and former curator of 20th-century glass at the Corning Museum of Glass, New York; Lloyd Herman, independent curator and founding director of the Renwick Gallery; and Jane Milosch, curator at the Renwick Gallery.



**Trip Leaders Talk
about JRA Trips**

By Wanda Rappaport
Alliance Trip Coordinator

Coordinating Caucus and Alliance trips, generating trip calendars for the next couple years, and identifying trip leaders were the main agenda items for the Jul. 17 meeting of the newly formed Trip Committee of the JRA Board.

Diane Grainer, president; Fran Burka, Caucus trip coordinator; Pat Arnold and Wanda Rappaport, Alliance trip coordinators; Clemmer Montague, Quarterly editor; David Montague, past president; Judy Davis, Caucus chair; and Miriam Bonner and Larry Hawk, new board members, attended the kickoff meeting.

Pat and I expect to arrange one out-of-town (3- or 4-day) trip and two or three local Alliance trips each year. I was the leader of a Northern Virginia and DC trip this spring, and Pat and I are leading a trip in Montgomery County on Oct. 21. We also are working

on a local trip for Dec. 2 and are considering either Annapolis or Berkeley Springs. We urge other members, such as those who are familiar with a potential trip destination, have specialized knowledge of a craft, or just interested in leading or assisting with a trip to contact us.

Clemmer Montague is working with a number of Alliance, Caucus and Gallery Caucus members in Massachusetts in planning our 2007 out-of-town Alliance trip to Boston and Western Massachusetts, set for Mar. 30-Apr. 2. Sue Kolodner has agreed to schedule a return trip to Baltimore in November 2007 for those who were not selected for the over sold trip in 2005. Larry Hawk is familiar with Kansas City, home to important art museums, the Kansas City Art Institute, and many craft artists and collectors, so he volunteered his mother Frances to plan a trip for the spring of 2008.

For information about leading or assisting with an Alliance trip for either level, please call Pat Arnold, 703-780-9721 or Wanda Rappaport, (703) 312-7474. Working with trips is fun, educational, and a great way to meet other Alliance members.

