



FRIENDS OF ART NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008



IMA Librarian Alba Fernández-Keys addresses the first meeting of the newly-formed Collectors' Club on some of the resources available to collectors to research works of art. Using both print and web-based materials, collectors can easily find and verify artists' signatures and marks, biographies, as well as multiple, recent auction results for similar works. Some of these important subscription services are also available locally at the IU Fine Arts Library.

Collectors' Club Debut

*IMA Librarian Fernández-Keys Speaks on
Researching Artworks*

A Summary by Miriam Rosenzweig

The Collectors' Club had an auspicious beginning with a workshop at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA), titled *Research Your Artwork*. Alba Fernández-Keys, reference librarian at IMA's Stout Library, illustrated the procedure with a portrait of Cecilia Bondi-Maron. The first step is to look for an artist's signature, monogram, or mark. For works on paper, the edition number should be noted. Finding a title and date is particularly helpful when the name cannot be found. In the sample painting, the artist's name, Leon Pohle, was found in the upper left hand corner.

Next, collectors want to know as much as possible about the artist, his time, other works, venues of exhibits, and of course, current selling prices. There are numerous reference works, both in print

and online, available for subscription to libraries. The IMA library takes pride in its extensive holdings of such materials and services. It also collects auction catalogues and gallery exhibition catalogues and never throws them out. Ms. Fernández-Keys explained that small galleries come and go, and though they keep records while in existence, such materials are often discarded when a gallery closes.

A large book, *The Encyclopedia of Artists' Signatures, Symbols and Monograms* catches artists who don't sign their works in plain letters. Leon Pohle, who is not a well-known artist, was found in a French reference work, *Dictionary of All Artists, Sculptors and Printmakers of All Times and All Countries*.

States publish books, such as *Artists in Ohio, 1787 – 1900*. In Indiana, there are files on regional and local artists that include letters and clippings. They are maintained by the Indiana Historical Society, the state library, and the IMA. Online, **AskArt.com** includes lesser-known and regional

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Bookshop 40th Anniversary

The Friends of Art Bookshop invites you to celebrate our 40th birthday on Saturday October 11, 2008. Join us from 3 pm to 5 pm outside the SoFA Gallery for fruit, cupcakes, and champagne. Enjoy dazzling discounts at the Bookshop, and a history of the Friends of Art from Bookshop founder Patty Pizzo. At 5 pm in the Fine Arts Library, BJ Irvine and Tony White will present a program on collecting artists' books, titled "Collecting the Contemporary: Building an Artists' Books Collection," in addition to an exhibition in the library cases highlighting artist's books. We hope you can join us for a lovely celebratory afternoon.



Letter from the President

The Collectors' Club Has Arrived!

It is with delight and pleasure that I make two announcements: the first is to welcome and cheer the first meeting of the Friends of Art's newest venture, its Collectors' Club. We have been talking about this possibility ever since Keith Michael, Chair of the Membership Committee, proposed it, and now it has come to fruition. The second exciting announcement is that Tony White, Head of the Fine Arts Library, has agreed to coordinate the Collectors' Club activities, as an adjunct to the Membership Committee.

The first meeting of the Friends of Art's Collectors' Club occurred on Saturday, August 16, 2008 as part of a FoA trip to the Indianapolis Museum of Art to see its Egyptian collection. I asked Miriam Rosenzweig if she would prepare a description of the meeting. She graciously agreed and prepared the report on Page 1.

We welcome suggestions and topics for, plus participation in the Collectors' Committee. Please send them to Tony White at antmwhit@indiana.edu.

Peggy Intons-Peterson



FOA Travel

Indianapolis: Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty

Saturday, November 15, 2008

Featuring a full range of objects in use at the imperial court of the Ming dynasty, this exhibition is being organized by the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco in association with the Palace Museum, Beijing; the Nanjing Municipal Museum; and the Shanghai Museum. It is the first major exhibition to focus solely on the court arts of the Ming dynasty. Some of the objects in the exhibition are from newly excavated tombs of individuals related to the Ming court and have never been shown before outside of China. The exhibition is comprised of more than 200 items that include paintings; gold and jade; textiles; jewelry; architectural and funereal objects; carvings and lacquer pieces; porcelains; and enamel and metal work. After opening at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, the IMA will be the first of two venues to host this exhibition.



Dragon-head terminal for the main ridge of a roof, approx. 1412-1431, from the site of the Bao'ensi, outside the Central Chinese Gate, Nanjing, earthenware, 22" x 26" x 10", Nanjing Municipal Museum

We have arranged for a pre-trip lecture from professor of history and East Asian studies Lynn Struve. Upon seeing the lavish catalogue, Prof. Struve called the show "eye-popping." She was very excited to see a show covering the Ming Dynasty, her specialty. She will lecture at 5 pm in FA 010 on Friday, November 7 (time and place subject to change).

On Saturday, November 15, we will load the bus from IU Foundation Showalter House lot, depart for Indianapolis by 9:30 am, arrive for opening 11:00 am. Visitors may view Power and Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty until closing time. Bus departs museum by 5 pm. Arrive Bloomington approx. 6:30 pm.

Member price is \$40, including ticket cost for special exhibit. Non-member price is \$50. **Special student price is \$25!** Payments are due and non-refundable by October 31. Please confirm soon! Call Friends of Art office at 855-5300 or e-mail foart@indiana.edu

St. Louis: Action/Abstraction

November 8-9, 2008

In *Action/Abstraction: Pollock, de Kooning, and American Art, 1940-1976*, the first major U.S. exhibition in 20 years to rethink Abstract Expressionism and the movements that followed, over fifty key works by 32 artists – among them Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Helen Frankenthaler, Mark Rothko – will be viewed from the perspectives of influential, rival art critics Clement Greenberg and Harold Rosenberg, the artists, and popular culture. Beginning in the 1940s, artists such as Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning created paintings and sculptures that catapulted American art onto the international stage, making New York City the successor to prewar Paris as the mecca for the avant-garde. This show originated at the Jewish Museum in New York in May 2008.

We plan to load our bus from the IU Foundation parking lot at Showalter House on the Bypass beginning at 7 am for an 7:30 am departure, with arrival in St. Louis by 11:00 am local time. We will proceed to the St. Louis Art Museum to tour the *Action/ Abstraction* exhibit. The bus will take us the short distance to the hotel on closing at 5 pm. Overnight stay is at the Cheshire Inn (6300 Clayton Road, 800-325-7378).

On Sunday, November 9, leave the hotel by 9 am. We will visit the Cahokia Mounds State Historical Site, stay for approximately 3 hours, leave by 12:30 and stop nearby for lunch.

Cost of the trip is \$220 per person (\$235 for non-members). Reserve places by October 30. Payments are due and may be non-refundable past that date. Call Friends of Art office at 855-5300. More details at www.fa.indiana.edu/foart.



SoFA Gallery

HUB: A Collaboration of Art and Space

September 5 – 27, 2008

HUB: A Collaboration of Art and Space is a two-part exhibition experiment that seeks to explore the metamorphosis of the gallery experience. The exhibition centers around a docking module, which serves as a physical hub, connecting mobile containers/moving trucks filled with art, thus transforming them into temporary gallery spaces. All act together as a temporary exhibition experience that can be erected anywhere, moving from site to site. *HUB Phase I* is held in the traditional gallery setting at the SoFA Gallery, allowing the visitor to view the artwork in a traditional context. *HUB Phase II* invites the visitor to an off-site location (McCalla School, opening October 3) to experience the transformation of the artwork within the HUB truck containers. Once the exhibition concludes, it will be mobile and travel to other site-specific venues.

HUB is a unique gallery experience developed by Derek Parker, Jonathon Dankenbring, and LaRinda Meinburg, MFA students at the Hope School of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the SoFA Gallery. HUB will feature sculptural installations by Parker, Dankenbring, Meinburg, and Rob Off.

Vacation 08

September 5 – October 4, 2008

Fresh and new works by faculty and some invited guests in the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University are featured in this spontaneous show, *Vacation '08*. Many of the works included will be experimental, unfinished and in transition, giving visitors a chance to see what these artists have been up to over the summer.

IU Art Museum

The Grand Tour: Art and Travel, 1740 – 1914

September 20 – December 21, 2008

This exhibition, comprising works drawn from the permanent collections of the Indiana University Art Museum and the Lilly Library, examines the phenomenon of travel and tourism from the mid-

eighteenth century to the eve of World War I. During this period, a “Grand Tour” to the major historical sites of Italy, Spain, Greece, and the Middle East became a defining feature of northern European and American culture. The exhibition explores how colonialism, evolving aesthetic theories, opportunities for artistic study, and advances in archaeology influenced travelers’ agendas. Painting, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, and sketchbooks by travelers and artists (including Jean-Honoré Fragonard, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, Canaletto, Edward Lear, Francis Frith, Jasper Francis Cropsey, and James McNeill Whistler) are included in the exhibition, along with illustrated guidebooks, memoirs, and travelers’ accounts.



Henry Bacon, (American, 1839 – 1912), “St. Mark’s Square,” central panel from a triptych, 1881, oil on canvas, Morton and Marie Bradley Memorial Collection, IU Art Museum 91.214

– Jenny McComas, Class of 1958 Curator of Western Art after 1800

Recognition

Jane Hewitt Receives Meier Award

Long-time Friends of Art member Jane Hewitt is the first recipient of the Patti and Joel Meier Docent Award at the Indiana University Art Museum. The award was created last year to acknowledge and honor the Meier’s’ commitment and generosity to museum education. Edward Maxedon, the museum’s curator of education, said about forty-five docents voted this year on the one

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Faculty Exhibits

Tim Kennedy Watercolors at Prima Gallery

The thirty small-scale watercolor studies of Bloomington neighborhoods by Tim Kennedy (on view at the Prima Gallery until August 30) convey many pleasures of familiarity and recognition: the logo shield on an old “Insurance Agency” building on Walnut Street, vintage trucks “Behind the Primitive Church,” the city sports complex in “Ballgame.” Indeed, visitors come in to the gallery excited to see their neighborhoods, their particular homes. Yet the deep view across fences in “Backyards” evokes a more general recognition from childhood: notions of territory, of home turf, and an emerging sense of self.

The artistic race being run here, as some views move close to abstraction, consists of keeping the space coherent even when description and detail is minimal. The balancing act of taking away supports for reading the piece is like a game of Jenga: how much can be removed while still allowing the structure to stand? A straightforward view of two plain white house fronts in “Behind the Shops” gives us the confidence to read the ambiguities on the lower right of a low-roofed garage with floating, orphaned cornice and collapsing gutter.

A primary tool here is the way light travels in and through obstacles to create space, when the differences in color are not great. Kennedy immerses the eye in a sea of green, often withholding a view of sky. Shadows pool in the tree-clutched streets. We notice the pale colors of dusty house paint, punished by the sun, as light streams through the side yards and alleys like aisle lights in a darkened theater.

The painting “Green House” represents a perfect balance between detail and succinctness. Very subtle shifts in a pale aqua green house color serve to define front and side, aided by the careful unity in shadows that fall across the house. We notice that a main shadow beneath the gutter has been shifted from blue to a green that both harmonizes with the house color and promotes the ambient light reflecting off surrounding vegetation. It helps that the darkest colors are drawn to the left edge and foreground, in effect putting the viewer in the

shade, which emphasizes the brilliant sun on the house.

Another set of recurring characters in these works, acting as a representative for a human presence, otherwise absent, is the depictions of automobiles. The side-by-side trucks in “Behind the Primitive Church” are from an era of elaborate grillwork and headlight design, suggestive of eyes, mouths and faces. The classic styling of the for-sale car in “Thunderbird” is immediately recognizable, as is the cheap, plastic hardware sale sign on the windshield. The depiction of cars gives pleasure not just from identifying make and model but also from the unique behaviors of the surface materials: the shiny reflective bumpers, the opaque glass of headlights, the small distortion of view through windshield and windows.

In the end, the issues of familiarity and recognition in art, as well as the integration of the man-made into nature, are markers for the degrees of our orientation in the world, visually and spatially, emotionally and culturally. This orientation requires the skills of ordering and measuring, as does the artwork that is its sign. Putting up a fence around the yard, or putting a for sale sign in the yard. We do them so naturally as to hardly think about it, but the accumulation of these small acts constitutes a kind of membrane of self that allows for the possibility of community.



Tim Kennedy, “Thunderbird,” watercolor on paper

Tony White will Head Collectors’s Club

IU Fine Arts Librarian Tony White has agreed to act as coordinator for the new Collectors’ Club program which will seek to explore issues faced by the contemporary art collector. The program kicked off with a lecture in the Indianapolis Museum of Art’s Stout Library in August on the basics of researching art and artists with online subscription services and published reference books. Tony furnished the concept outline and provided important contacts for this lecture. His breadth of knowledge in research and resources, as well as ties with artists, curators, and librarians across the country, will be invaluable assets for designing future events and lectures for the Collectors’ Club.



New Board Members Join the Friends of Art

As an introduction to several new members recently voted onto the Friends of Art Board of Directors, we present the following brief biographical outlines.

Lawrence Clopper

Lawrence Clopper took his BA from Johns Hopkins University in his native Maryland. He earned his MA and PhD from Ohio State. He has taught at IU since 1969, becoming a full professor of English in 1980. Among many other honors, he has been awarded faculty fellowships from IU, research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1994.

Clopper's recent book for the University of Chicago Press, *Drama, Play and Game: English Festive Culture in the Medieval and Early Modern Period*, won the David Bevington Award for Best New Book in Early Drama Studies from the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society.

Kenneth R. R. Gros Louis

Kenneth R. R. Gros Louis was named Trustee Professor in 2001 upon retirement as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Bloomington Chancellor. During his 21 years as chief executive, the campus set records in enrollment and external support, established scores of new endowments for faculty and students, and was recognized nationally for innovation in undergraduate education. He returned in January 2004 as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Bloomington Chancellor. He was named University Chancellor in 2006.

Chancellor Gros Louis received BA and MA degrees from Columbia and his PhD in Medieval and Renaissance Literature from the University of Wisconsin. He joined IU in 1964 as a faculty member in the departments of English and Comparative Literature (eventually serving each as chair and acting chair, respectively). He served as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as Dean of the College.

Chancellor Gros Louis is author of the two-volume *Literary Interpretations of Biblical Narrative* as well as many articles on literature, higher education, or academic administration. He won IU's Ulysses G. Weatherly Award for distinguished teaching in 1970 and has continued to teach during

his service as an administrator and in retirement. He was elected in 1991 to the Indiana Academy.

Gros Louis served previously on the Friends of Art board.

Sara LeBien

Sara LeBien grew up in Indianapolis and graduated from Butler University. After marriage to Robert LeBien, they lived in Bloomington while he attended graduate school. Sara taught grades first through third in an old-style, two-room country schoolhouse. After moving to Los Angeles in 1961, Sara spent the next thirty years volunteering in churches, schools, the Native American Center, UCLA's Museum of Cultural History, and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. She is the author of a guidebook, *Museums of Southern California*, and a children's booklet, *Our Immune System*.

After retiring to Bloomington, Sara and Bob began serving on the IU Art Museum National Advisory Board, continuing to the present. Currently, she volunteers at the Monroe County History Center and is active in PEO, Kappa Alpha Theta, and the 19th Century Club. Sara served previously on the Friends of Art board.

Ann McEndarfer

Ann McEndarfer earned a BS degree in History in her native state of Oklahoma. She also holds a masters' degree in teaching English as a second language. She joined the faculty at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, where she taught in the English department for almost twenty years. She organized and conducted summer language and cultural exchange programs for Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan, and for high school students from Taipei, Taiwan.

She organized and conducted the Truman State University Children's Literature Festival. She served twenty years on their committee, serving ten years as Director.

Her husband Ed McEndarfer is Professor Emeritus of Art from Truman State University. The couple moved to Bloomington in 2003 after retirement.

Carolyn Waldman

Carolyn Waldman was born in Indiana. She came to Bloomington as an undergraduate and has lived here since. She spent four years in Southeast Asia with her husband Joseph Waldman, who



taught as a member of the School of Business faculty under contract to the Ford Foundation. They began collecting Asian art during their travels and still enjoy frequenting auctions and galleries to augment their collection.

After returning to the States, Joseph continued with the Business School, and Carolyn worked in various administrative jobs at IU, including several years as a purchasing agent and eventually administering the trademark licensing program.

Carolyn continues to pursue her interests in art by attending drawing and painting classes at the Waldron and other area workshops.

Collectors, continued from Page 1

artists. This important subscription service is also maintained at the IU Fine Arts Library upon request.

After much work, the collector is eager to get an answer to his final question: What is my artwork worth? Answers can be found online at Artprice.com, AskArt.com, and Artifact.com. Libraries such as the IMA library maintain these more extensive and expensive annual subscription services. The public can access these web sites through the library.

Anyone contemplating the purchase or sale of an artwork can consult the American Society of Appraisers or the International Society of Appraisers, who will recommend an appropriate appraiser.

Those who participated in this workshop felt enlightened and stimulated.

Recognition, continued from Page 4

peer they felt best exemplified the qualities of commitment, attitude, leadership and skill.

“This award is a big deal,” Maxedon said. “Jane has been an active docent at the museum since February 1995. She is always one of the first in line to volunteer for challenging, content-based tours of the collection. She is exceedingly thorough in her preparation and serves as a model for inquiry-based docenting. The museum honors all of our docents and is appreciative of each for their unique skills and talents.”

The Friends of Art extend their warm congratulations to Jane for her excellent work.

Coming Events

Friends of Art Calendar

- **ending August 30, 2008** New watercolors by Tim Kennedy at the Prima Gallery.

- **August 30 – 31, 2008** Visit the Friends of Art booth at the Fourth Street Festival of the Arts and Crafts.
- **September 5 – October 4, 2008** SoFA Gallery presents “Vacation ‘08,” new works by faculty and invited guests. Included will be experimental, unfinished, and transitional works. Opening reception 7 – 9 pm, September 5.
- **September 5 – 27, 2008** *HUB: A Collaboration of Art and Space* in the SoFA Gallery. A two-part exhibition experiment that explores the metamorphosis of the gallery experience. Phase I opening reception 7 – 9 pm, September 5. Phase II opening reception 6 – 10 pm, October 3 at McCalla School.
- **September 20 – December 21, 2008** *The Grand Tour: Art and Travel, 1740 – 1914* in the IU Art Museum examines the phenomenon of travel and tourism from the mid-eighteenth century to the eve of World War I. Opening reception 6 – 8:30 pm, September 19, also features a concert by Voces Novae.
- **October 11, 2008** The Friends of Art Bookshop invites you to celebrate our 40th birthday. Join us from 3 pm to 5 pm outside the SoFA Gallery for fruit, cupcakes, and champagne. Enjoy dazzling discounts at the Bookshop, and a history of the Friends of Art from Bookshop founder Patty Pizzo. At 5 pm in the FA Library, B.J. Irvine and Tony White will present a program on collecting artist’s books. We hope you can join us for a celebratory afternoon.
- **November 7, 2008** 5 pm in FA 010 Lynne Struve, professor of history and East Asian studies, will lecture on the history of the Ming Dynasty as it relates to IMA show (see entry below).
- **November 8 – 9, 2008** Friends of Art bus trip to St. Louis to view *Action/Abstraction*. Visit to Cahokia Mounds State Historical Site on return trip. Cost \$220 per person.
- **November 15, 2007** Friends of Art trip to Indianapolis Museum of Art to view *Power and Glory: Court Arts of China’s Ming Dynasty*.
- **March, 2009** Possible Friends of Art trip to Ottawa, Canada to view the special exhibit *Bernini and Baroque Portraiture*.
- **April – May, 2009** Possible Friends of Art trip to Philadelphia to view *Cézanne and Beyond*, a show of 60 works by the 19th century giant and his influence on a generation that followed. Let us know if you are interested!



Reply Form

To join the Friends of Art, renew your membership or to sign up a friend, select a category & return this form with a check made payable to: **Friends of Art/ IU Foundation**. Mail this form to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Friends of Art
Fine Arts Building, FA 125
1201 East 7th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405
foart@indiana.edu
812-855-5300

- Yes, I want to reserve a spot for the Chinese exhibit in Indianapolis for \$40 per person.
- Please reserve a hardcover copy *Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty* (\$41.96 + tax)
- Please reserve a hardcover copy of *Action/Abstraction* (\$45.50 + tax, both books 30% off retail)
- Yes, I want to visit St.Louis for the *Action/Abstraction* show (\$220 per person, member price)
- Renew or begin my membership at the indicated level:
 - Patron \$250
 - Donor \$100
 - Family \$50
 - Individual \$40
 - Student \$20

Your membership entitles you to receive:

- Invitations to IU Art Museum & School of Fine Art events.
- A 10% discount at the Friends of Art Bookshop & IUAM Gift Shop.
- Opportunities to travel at reduced group rate fares.
- Invitations to special events for Friends of Art members.
- Subscription to the Friends of Art Newsletter.

Return Service Requested

Friends of Art
Fine Arts Building, FA 125
Indiana University
1201 East 7th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405

