

Founders' Circle Bulletin



The Mint Museums

Founders' Circle

Mint Museum of Craft + Design

Message from the President



Can you believe it? Founder's Circle Weekend is here once more. I know that all of our members must be just as excited as I am about our upcoming Founder's Circle Weekend, April 16-18.

To begin our weekend, we will be honoring our guest artist, Jaroslava Brychtova and her late husband Stanislav Libensky, collectors Gloria and

Sonny Kamm, and curator of the ART OF GOLD, Michael Monroe, with a reception at the museum on Friday night. Do not miss this event with tours to be given of the fabulous teapot exhibit by the collectors themselves, Gloria and Sonny; and the sensational ART OF GOLD exhibit by, the always entertaining Michael Monroe.

Saturday brings us a not only a wonderful talk and panel discussion on ceramics and teapots with master mavens the Kamms, Garth Clark, Michael Monroe and Barbara Perry, but also our Mint Condition Gala organized by Marjorie Serralles Russell and Rochelle Grubb. Once again, the Founder's Circle will bring you the rare, the unusual, and the unobtainable.

Hopefully, you have all taken advantage of our first ever and brand new sensational auction website, www.mintcraftanddesignauction.com. Be sure to get on the net and preview the dazzling pieces of art that you cannot live without. A HUGE THANK YOU to Dudley and Lisa Anderson for rounding up this incredible selection.

Please be sure to thank Ginger Kemp, Membership Chair, for our new and beautifully put together membership brochure, and a membership event that was held in spite of a 17 inch snowstorm. A thank you also to Barbara Waldman, Trip Chair, for our upcoming craft study trip to Boston, October 20-24. For details and to come aboard, call Anna Sims at 704-337-2008.

The biggest thank you of all goes to our Founder's Circle members. Your support is crucial to the health and vigorous growth of the Mint Museum of Craft+Design and that of the craft community throughout the world. I look forward to seeing your smiling faces at the Mint Condition Gala and at Founder's Circle Weekend.

Patty Gorelick, *President*, Founders' Circle Ltd.

Limited seating still available for the: 2004 Mint Condition Gala Saturday, April 17

Don't miss this extraordinary evening filled with treasures, gourmet dining, & featuring an auction of *the Rare, the Unusual and the Unobtainable!*

View and bid on auction items NOW by visiting www.mintcraftanddesignauction.com

For ticket information, call the Founders' Circle Office at 704.337.2008 or email founderscircle@mintmuseum.org

From the Editor

IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS!

It's hard to believe that the MMC+D turned five years old in January. The Founders' Circle is



a bit older having been formed in 1997, as an inspiration of Lee and Mal Eagle in a private dining room at Galileo in DC, courtesy of John Kotelly. Jane and I went to that meeting full of hope, but it was inconceivable that five years later we would be considered one of the finest craft museums in the country, organizing truly major shows, attracting magnificent gifts and becoming a destination for all the major craft organizations in America.

Five years later MMC+D has built a magnificent permanent collection, and hosted at least twenty nationally acclaimed exhibits, and the

From the Editor....continued

Founders' Circle has added more than \$1,300,000 to the rapidly growing MMC+D endowment and contributed at least \$500,000 to the MMC+D programs with more to come.

The MMC+D was launched in January 1999 with the *WHITE HOUSE COLLECTION* curated by Michael Monroe, and *HARVEY LITTLETON REFLECTIONS*, a tribute to our famous neighbor in Spruce Pine. Then came *AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILTS* and *DALE CHIHULY INSTALLATIONS*. The year 2000 was a good year, as they say in Bordeaux, because it brought us *AN INAUGURAL GIFT: THE FOUNDERS CIRCLE COLLECTION* and *TURNING WOOD INTO ART*, a gift of 120 pieces from the Jane and Arthur Mason Collection. The inaugural gift was the collection of gifts of art from some fifty Founder's Circle members. We were off to a good start; and we have been running ever since.

In November 2000 we opened the *ALLAN CHASANOFF CERAMIC COLLECTION*, a landmark show that presented a breathtaking survey of contemporary American ceramics. This was the collection of 435 pieces that got Jane and me interested in working with the Mint because if they were going to get work of that quality then it was clear that it was a place for us to consider for our collection

Other solo artist exhibits included solo shows for artists such as *WILLIAM MORRIS*, *RAMONA SOLBERG*, *RAYMON ELOZUA* and *JON KUHN*. This past September we opened the *LINDA MACNEIL* exhibit entitled *SCULPTURAL RADIANCE*. It seemed that at least a dozen beautiful women attended the opening wearing their "Linda." We have had wonderful special shows such as Sonny and Gloria Kamm's *THE ARTFUL TEAPOT*. In addition, we have just opened *THE ART OF GOLD*, a survey of contemporary American gold jewelry, objects, and sculpture.

We have presented special exhibits of our permanent collections. Our superb Curator, Melissa Post, produced *COMING OF AGE*, a 65-year survey of the growth of the Mint Museums' craft collections, followed by the more focused *POINT OF VIEW I*, featuring the private collections of 3 Charlotte collectors and *POINT OF VIEW II*, featuring private collections from North Carolina. These exhibits remind us why the Mint is in Charlotte. North Carolina is home to truly great artists and great national and international collections, including those of Lisa and Dudley Anderson, Margaret and Jerry Pennington, Philip and Charlotte Hanes, Loyd Dillon, Sonia and Isaac Luski, and Bob and Mindy Jones. In addition, in 2003, the museum exhibited Fleur and Charles Bresler's outstanding collection of *AMERICAN QUILT CLASSICS*, a gift of 36 American quilts (1800-1980) to the Mint Museums.

Finally we had two design shows including *American Modern* organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Federation of Arts, the opening of this show was so significant, that the American Institute of Architects scheduled it's annual convention in Charlotte to coincide with the opening. We have also attracted the American Craft Council, Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, American Association of Woodturners, Collectors of Wood Art, NSECA, The James Renwick Alliance and the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

Obviously we are not just about the shows. We have a permanent collection that grows every day with the help of the Founder's Circle, its members, the Mint Museum of Art, the Charlotte community and many friends. We started out with a Dale Chihuly chandelier and a Tom Patti wall. Since then we have added, thanks to Dudley and Lisa Anderson, the monumental *Relations*, by Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová which is a spectacular gateway to the Museum. Our history would not be complete without mentioning the name of Robyn Horn who has contributed so generously of her time and resources to build the collection and the endowment. Her sculptural wood pieces also grace the MMC+D galleries.

Finally, it's all about people. Mark Leach, our first director has been promoted to Deputy Director of The Mint Museums and he has achieved eminence in his field. Melissa Post, who came to us from Corning is our Curator and Mary Beth Ausman has produced landmark educational programs and online delights. Kristen Watts is the Research Associate and Anna Sims coordinates us all. On the Founders' Circle Board we have been fortunate to have been led by Barbara Berlin for four years and Patty Gorelick of Charlotte this past year. Bruce Evans and Phil Kline have been great in their role as Executive Director of The Mint Museum.

Arthur Mason

Guest Columnist



The secondary market is the market for pre-owned works of art which are de-accessed by an owner, be it a museum, collector, or dealer, for various reasons.

Four of the most compelling reasons for selling works of art are death, divorce, debt and downsizing, or the “Four D’s,” as they are commonly referred to in the art world.

The secondary market is handled in two ways: by an important auction house, if the artist can realize a certain price at auction, or by a dealer, private or public, who will purchase the work or take it on consignment for an agreed fee. A public dealer may represent the estate of an artist in his stable. A public or private dealer may represent the estate of a collector. Occasionally, a collector may reconsign a work purchased from a public dealer to that dealer. Public dealers often have difficulty with a reconsign-ment since it is their primary responsibility to promote the current work of their artists, or the artist may not have an after market. Private dealers usually focus only on the secondary market.

Not every artist has a secondary market. Not every period or work of an artist has a secondary market. An artist’s importance is determined by a combination of forces: respect for the work by other artists, by museum curators, by dealers and by collectors. In order to gain this respect the work usually has an innovative quality. It changes the way we perceive art.

Prices on the secondary market will reflect the beauty, rarity, provenance and quality of the artist’s work. An important work by an important artist may fetch high prices, possibly higher than the current work. However, if an artist has repeated individual works, or has been generally too prolific, the price will reflect the glut of these works on the market. Should the artist continue to cast or in any way posthumously produce the work of an artist the posthumous work will ultimately be worth less than the work done during the artist’s lifetime. An artist, his dealer and his estate should work in concert to protect the artist’s legacy.

Without a secondary market an artist’s primary market will eventually disappear. There is no place for the work to go.

Artists create their work to be shared. The secondary market rescues and preserves their work for posterity.

Donna Schneier

Independent Dealer, Founders’ Circle Member, Exhibitor at SOFA and other venues

From our Executive Director



I appreciate the opportunity to be included in this issue of the newsletter. The Founders’ Circle provides incredible support to the Mint

Museum of Craft + Design through its sponsorship of exhibitions, publications, acquisitions and programs. The Museum has achieved amazing success during its first five years through the combined efforts of the Founders’ Circle, staff, Trustees and members/supporters. The exhibition schedule has included strong offerings as evidenced by *The Artful Teapot: 20th Century Expressions from the Kamm Collection* and *The Art of Gold*, currently on view. The upcoming exhibition *The Nature of Craft and the Penland Experience* will demonstrate the continued commitment of the Museum to present significant work that tells of the importance of craft and design. Our educational programming supporting these efforts continues to draw even more participation and engagement from the community as we strive to increase awareness and understanding of the field. I hope you will be able to join us at the Mint Condition Gala for a wonderful evening that will thrill you with its atmosphere, exquisite dining and exciting auction offerings. Thanks again to the Founders’ Circle for helping to make the Mint Museum of Craft + Design a great success.

Phil Kline
Executive Director

Founders' Circle Weekend Schedule

April 16-18, 2004

FRIDAY

6-8PM MMC+D *220 N Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202*

Founders' Circle member reception honoring guest artist Jaroslava Brychtova, Artful Teapot collectors Sonny and Gloria Kamm, and Michael Monroe, curator of the Art of Gold exhibition. Walk-throughs by the Kamms and Michael Monroe. Reservations requested. Guests welcome.

SATURDAY

9-10 AM MMC+D *Mezzanine Classroom*

Talk by Mark Del Vecchio, author of *Post-Modern Ceramics*

10-11:15AM MMC+D *Mezzanine Classroom*

Teapot Panel Discussion with Garth Clark, Gloria and Sonny Kamm, Michael Monroe and Barbara Perry

11:30-12PM MMC+D *Marc and Mattye Silverman Pavilion, 4th Floor MMC+D*

Founders' Circle Annual meeting

12:15-1:15 PM MMC+D *Marc and Mattye Silverman Pavilion, 4th Floor MMC+D*

Founders' Circle Members Directors Luncheon. Talk by Michael Monroe, curator of the Art of Gold. Reservations requested. Guests welcome.

1:30-2:30PM MMC+D *Mezzanine Classroom*

Talk by Gloria and Sonny Kamm, Artful Teapot collectors

6:00PM *Gala*

SUNDAY

9:30-11:30AM *Hearst Tower Kennedy Covington Office, Forty Seventh Floor*

Founders' Circle members brunch and talk by honorary guest artist Jaroslava Brychtova. Reservations requested. Guests welcome.

For information or reservations call the Founders' Circle office at 704.337.2008 or email founderscircle@mintmuseum.org.

The Year of Craft in North Carolina



What a fantastic time to visit the Mint Museum of Craft + Design! We have just completed the second of two gallery rotations in prepara-

tion for your visit this Founders' Circle weekend! The permanent collection has never looked better! The galleries are brimming with important acquisitions, one case in particular, devoted solely to female wood turners, while other areas are punctuated by some of the stellar objects from *Coming of Age*. Highlights of recent acquisitions include works by: Liv Blåvarp, Diana Hobson, Peter Lenzo, Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, Ivan Mares, Albert Paley, David Shaner, and Rick Smith. Many of these objects are handsomely punctuated with the Founders' Circle logo! From all of us here, we send our most profound thanks for your sustained generosity and support.

Though we celebrate craft every day at the Mint Museum of Craft + Design, earlier this year, Governor Mike Easley proclaimed 2004 the Year of Craft in North Carolina! Just in time for spring and summer, the Mint Museum of Craft + Design commemorates this special occasion with two stunning exhibitions: *The Art of Gold* and *The Nature of Craft* and the Penland



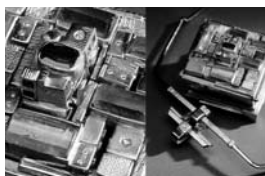
Experience. We look forward to seeing all of you enjoying the permanent collection and these exhibitions.



The Art of Gold will be on view at the Mint Museum of Craft + Design April 3 - August 8, 2004. The first major exhibition of contemporary goldsmithing in 25 years, *The Art of Gold* presents 82 examples of some of the finest works made in the field of metal today.

Rather than the work of traditional jewelry makers, the objects in *The Art of Gold* are the result of a recent tradition established by independent artists called “studio jewelers.” The work is conceived by the artist, who also designs and meticulously makes the jewelry by hand in a personal studio space.

These artists look to the fine arts for inspiration: Pop Art, abstract painting, minimalist sculpture, Neo-Expressionism, and even Conceptual Art are major influences in their work. As a discipline, studio jewelry is wonderfully rich and diverse. *The Art of Gold* explores these multiple themes: surveying the current state of the art; exploring gold as a material and the various techniques employed in forming objects; and celebrating contemporary virtuoso work, while retaining the sense of craft and gold’s unique historical lineage.



The Art of Gold is a program of ExhibitsUSA, a National Division of Mid-Atlantic Arts Alliance. *The Art of Gold* is curated by Michael Monroe and organized in conjunction with the Society of American Goldsmiths. A full color catalog with an essay by Bruce Metcalfe is available.

In *Meditations*, Marcus Aurelius stated “First and foremost of each thing you must ask what is its nature?” From July 3, 2004-January 30, 2005, The Mint Museum of Craft + Design provides some answers to this provocative question in *The Nature of Craft & the Penland Experience*. The experience of making things is a physical poetry that expresses the human spirit.



Craft is the product of creativity bolstered by skill—a choreography that is shared across political and cultural boundaries. Craft has a strong intellectual component that draws on the taproot of history, yet reveals the time and place of making.

The Nature of Craft and the Penland Experience illustrates the evolution of object making in America and Penland’s role in the development of craft education during the past century. Approximately 133 objects will illustrate the human creative process by revealing the nature of craft in three broad topics. “Skill” celebrates mastery over material and examines the role of oral traditions in developing competence. “Source” looks at environment, the body, spirituality, and play as the foundations of creativity in craft. “Expression” demonstrates that craft communicates ideas, transcending the tradi-



tional boundaries of gender, ethnicity, age, and religion. All hand-made objects embody these three elements to some extent, while some show one aspect to a greater degree than the other two. Penland School of Crafts is a unique community where artists and students from diverse cultures come together to share and articulate their skills, beliefs, and attitudes about making things.



The Nature of Craft and the Penland Experience is co-curated by Ellen Denker and Dana Moore.

A book with essays by: Ellen Denker, Ellen Dissanayake, Robin Dreyer, Roald Hoffmann, Lewis Hyde, Norris Brock Johnson, Michael Owen Jones, Elizabeth Minnich, Eileen Myles, and Patricia Phillips will be available.



Melissa G. Post, Curator

IMAGES

Jennifer Trask
Popillia Japonica, 2001

Mary Lee Hu
Choker #83, 2000

Judith Kaufman
Box, Ring, & Necklace Ensemble, 2002

Fred Fenster
pewter, b.1934
Teapot, 2002

Daniel Essig
book arts, b. 1967
Book of Nails, 2002

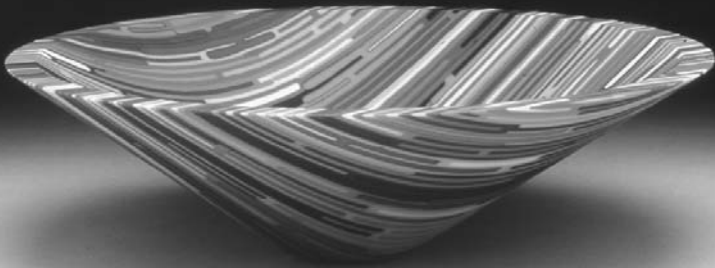
Alida Fish
photography, b. 1944
Walking with Pygmalion #5, 1998

Silvie Granatelli
clay, b. 1947
The Supremes, 2003

Silent Auction Items

www.mintcraftanddesignauction.com

1



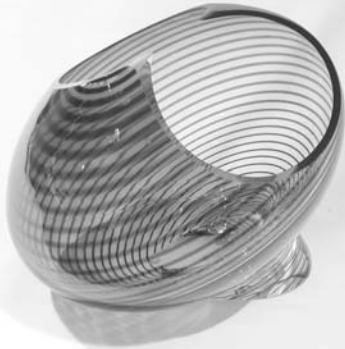
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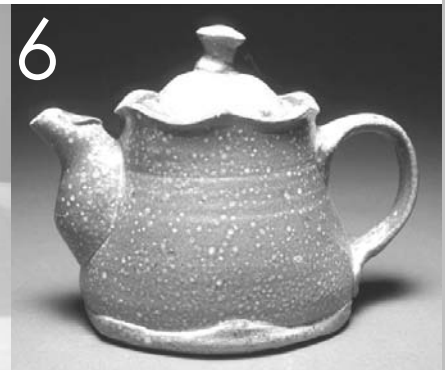
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5



6



1. Martin Kremer

Rainbow Bowl

Cut, pieced, fused and slumped in a multi-colored striped pattern
15" diameter x 4" deep

2. Ricky Frank

Night and Day

Cloisonné enamel earrings with 24K, 22K, 18K gold and diamonds

3/4"H x 1/2"W

and

Quilt Pin

Cloisonné enamel pin with 24K, 22K and 18K gold, rubies, sapphires

1 1/2"

3. Mark Peters

Oval Platter

Wood fired stoneware, fired with pots inside
2 1/2"H x 18"W x 13"D

4. John Nickerson

Recumbent Glass Bowl

Blown glass
6 1/2"H x 9"W

5. Garry Knox Bennett

Band Saw

Douglas fir, band-sawn, painted with gold leaf trim

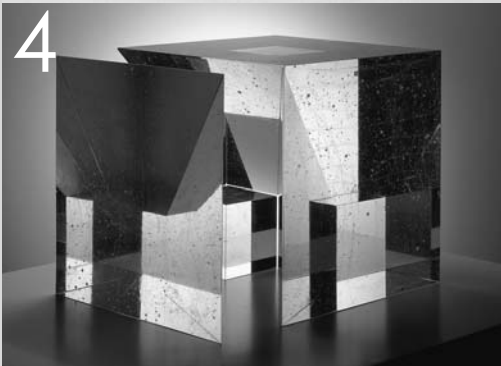
6. Jim and Susan Whalen

Untitled Vessel

Wheel thrown, pit fired vessel
18"H x 13"W

This is only a partial list of auction items. To see the full selection go to our website at:

www.mintcraftanddesignauction.com



1. **Robert Dane**
Tutti Frutti Goblets
6 blown glass goblets in the Italian tradition
average height 9"
2. **William Hunter**
Vallarta Blossom
Lathe-turned, disc-sculpted;
sanded wax finish, cocobolo wood
5.75"H x 9" diameter
3. **Dale Chihuly**
Sapphire Blue Basket
Set Handblown glass
13" x 15" x 13"
4. **Jaroslava Brychtová and Stanislav Libenský**
Cube in a Cube
Crystalline glass sculpture
12" x 12" x 12"
5. **Linda MacNeil**
Lotus of Alexandre
Brooch & earrings,
polished tinted lavender optical glass,
polished 18K yellow gold
3"H x 2"W x 1/2" D
6. **Albert Paley**
Pair of Tall Candleholders
Formed and fabricated steel
25 1/4 "H x 6" Diameter
7. **William Morris**
Animal Pin
Hand blown and sculpted glass
14" x 5" x 4"

Founders' Circle Calendar of Events 2004

January 31 -May 30	<i>The Artful Teapot: 20th-Century Expressions from the Kamm Collection</i>
April 3-August 8	<i>Art of Gold</i>
April 16-18	Founders' Circle Weekend in Charlotte, NC
Saturday, April 17	<i>Mint Condition Gala</i>
June 3-6	SOFA New York
July 3, 2004-January 30, 2005	<i>The Nature of Craft and the Penland Experience</i>
July 15	<i>The Nature of Craft and the Penland Experience</i> Opening at MMC+D
August 28 – March 6, 2005	<i>Point of View III</i>
November 4-7	SOFA Chicago



The Mint Museums
Experience Art

Jaroslava Brychtová



Don't miss this year's Mint Condition Gala,

A Live Auction of the Rare, the Unusual and the Unobtainable
Featuring Guest Artist **Jaroslava Brychtová**

For tickets, call the Founders' Circle office at 704.337.2008 or email founderscircle@mintmuseum.org



The Mint Museums receive operating support from the Arts & Science Council-Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Inc.; the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts; the City of Charlotte; and their members.



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