



**Class of 2014**

*Shown with instructors Mary Ellen Hoffman and Ralph Wilson*

*From left: Monica Babich, Marc Brody, Mary Ellen, Kim Smith, Ralph, Wendy Hunter, Jay Frederick, Mary Winder*

Dear Docents,

Mary Ellen Hoffman and Ralph Wilson are grinning with pride for good reason—they've brought us a top-tier class. This image-packed issue offers a visual re-cap of the Graduation and Service Recognition Reception, celebrating our New Active Docents, service pin recipients, and Docent of the Year, Ann Robinson. Once again, the Education Dept hosted a fine party honoring our graduates and the Council. My heartfelt thanks go to Robert Winder, husband of graduate Mary Winder, for the photos.

Inside this issue, you'll find a report by Joan Dewirst on the LACMA trip as well as the Book Group announcement and fall meeting dates from Laura DePaoli.

Two new *La Muse* additions debut this summer. The first, *Touring Tips*, is a column where docents can share a tidbit useful in touring our permanent collection. We continually learn from one another, so I hope you'll jump in with a few lines on a favorite piece. Thank you, Ricki, for this first tip.

The second addition, *Events & Activities*, suggested by Molora, offers a designated space for announcing cultural events and art-related opportunities.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

*Lori*



Lori Mohr  
Editor



Ann Robinson  
**Docent of the Year**











*Below: Class of 2009, Five Year Pin recipients, celebrating with former instructor Paul Guido.  
(Not shown: Queenie Scheurwater. No photo credit)*



# LACMA Bus Trip

By Joan Dewirst



The lure of a new exhibit, “Expressionism in Germany and France: From Van Gogh to Kandinsky” enticed 28 docents and friends to LACMA on June 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a richly rewarding experience. Galleries were ablaze with color from works by Van Gogh, Matisse, Gauguin, Cezanne, Ernst Kirchner, Franz Marc, Kandinsky and others. Ninety paintings and 45 works on paper presented Expressionism, not as a distinctly German style, but as an international movement in which artists responded with various aesthetic approaches to the work of modern masters of the time.

Additional inviting art was on display with the exhibit “Calder and Abstraction: From Avant-Garde to Iconic” and a series of Chinese paintings from Japanese Collections. Far too soon, our bus driver was snapping the farewell photo in front of Chris Burden’s “Urban Light” installation. We boarded the bus for a relaxing, conversation-filled ride home, complete with wine and cheese., a docent tradition.

*Additional photos submitted by Molora.*



## Touring Tip

By Ricki Morse



On April 3, 2014, on a bus ride from Puebla to Cuernavaca, travelers to Central Mexico were treated to a video, available through the Siqueiros Studio and Museum in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The video not only caught us up on the Siqueiros history, but added a biographical note which I will use the next time I tour the mural.

The attributed source of David Alfaro's startling green eyes was his Romanian, Jewish maternal grandmother. His sister, Luz, older by three years, was, like David Alfaro, active in the Marxist revolutionary movement in Mexico. The Red Army soldier pictured in our mural didn't exist in fact but represent the artist's longing for an active Marxist military presence in Mexico. He personalizes these aspirations in the military figure with green eyes.

Is this Siqueiros himself or perhaps his sister, or both, expressing a mutual devotion to a shared social cause?



David Alfaro Siqueiros, *Portrait of Mexico Today*, 1932

## Events & Activities

*La Muse* now offers a designated space for sharing gallery and museum visits, book reviews, recommendations for movies and plays, and all things cultural going on in our own backyard.

The announcement below, from Molora, offers a great opportunity for ongoing education with sessions in art-making techniques, drawing, print making, French fashion and culinary tradition, to name a few.

### Adult Programs and Courses

### The Getty Center



Email [artistprograms@getty.edu](mailto:artistprograms@getty.edu)  
or call 310.440.7300 to reserve your space

<http://gallery.mailchimp.com/f39840ed146e17d9569731fc8/files/face089c-a1ba-4e07-870b-cc3f376a6af6.pdf>

Michi Ho [Michiandart@gmail.com](mailto:Michiandart@gmail.com)

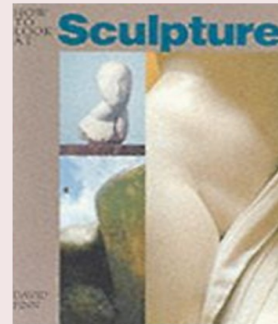
Marty Molof [mjm1936@cox.net](mailto:mjm1936@cox.net)





Dates for Book Group meetings are below. Meetings are on **Monday afternoons at 2pm.**

**September 29**  
**November 10**  
**January 26**  
**March 23**  
**May 11**



This summer, in advance of our September meeting, we've chosen a book perfect for the patio or the beach. We'll be reading *How to Look at Sculpture* by **David Finn**.

Kathryn Zupsic recommended this book and said: "Small but absolutely wonderful--completely changed the way I see and talk about sculpture." It's a slim volume, wonderfully illustrated with photographs. David Finn is a photographer known for his work with sculpture and the book is his meditation on what he's learned over the years looking deeply at the works he has photographed. Even if you're not sure about attending Book Group in the fall, it's well worth a read and it's available for \$.01 (yes, a penny), used from Amazon.

For our November meeting, and to tie in with our photography shows, we'll be reading two short books offering differing views of what photography is, **Roland Barthes's *Camera Lucida*** and *What Photography Is* by **James Elkins**.

Our reading choice for January is related to our upcoming Latin American photography show. We'll be reading *Essays on Mexican Art* by the great Mexican poet **Octavio Paz**.

We've left the book for March open for now.

Our May selection is *The Art of Cruelty: A Reckoning* by **Maggie Nelson**, also recommended by Stephanie, "an examination of what constitutes cruelty in visual art and literature, what ethical uses can be made of it, and ultimately what it means to be an intentional viewer."

More book suggestions you may enjoy:

*The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance* by **Edmund de Waal**. Strongly recommended by both Irene Stone and Jill Finsten.

*A Perfect Red: Empire, Espionage, and the Quest for the Color of Desire* by **Amy Butler Greenfield**. Our Latin American book club read this several years ago and everyone loved it.

*The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer* by **Anne-Marie O'Connor**.

*The Art of Wealth: the Huntingtons in the Gilded Age* by **Shelley Bennet**. Jill called it "fascinating" and says that, "She's uncovered all sorts of new information about them, and it's a bit like an American Downton Abbey. Gossipy and fascinating as cultural history."

Laura DePaoli

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## The Last Page



*Be sure to submit your travels, museum/gallery reviews, and art-related stories.  
Thank you to all who have contributed this year. ~LM*

*Lori Mohr, Editor*  
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