

Docent Dates

Tues May 6

3:00—5:00 Provisional
Recruitment Reception

Wed May 7

Coffee; Meeting
Carlos Hernandez' on
Carlos Cruz-Diez'
Physichromie 352;
Lecture: L.A.-based
artist Ken Gonzales-
Day

Mon, May 19

Book Group

May 21

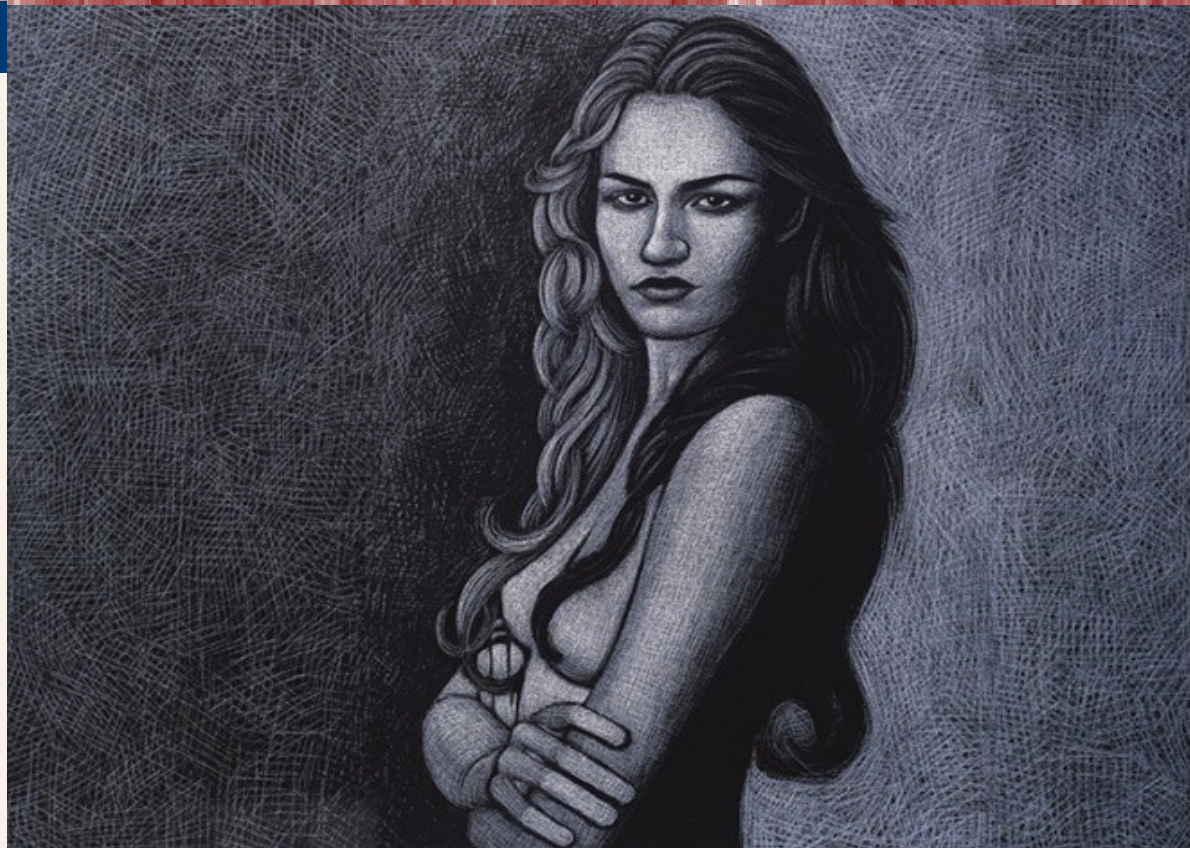
Coffee; Meeting
Pma Tregenza on
Lehmbruck's *Torso of
a Pensive Woman*;
Lecture with Dada
scholar Francis M.
Nauman in conjunc-
tion with *Living in the
Timeless: Drawings by
Beatrice Wood*.

June 4

Coffee & meeting

June 12

Graduation; Recogni-
tion & Service Awards



Amy Adler, *Different Girls #9*, 2002 Cibachrome print face-mounted, 16.9 x 23.6 " INTERNAL USE ONLY

This Issue

Pres Message	1
Vice President	2
Student Teams	3
Adult Teams	3
Evaluations	5
Provisionals	3
Nominations	4
Book Group	7
Mexico Trip	8

It's May, with spring's spotlight on our present and future accomplishments. Our remarkable Provisionals are preparing to give their first Highlights tours on May 22nd, and we will welcome prospective docents at the Provisional Recruitment Reception on May 6th. We can offer our time, support, and suggestions to our soon-to-be graduates, and express the joy of learning, the rigors, and the satisfactions of being a docent to individuals who may join us next year. Talking with prospective docents is fun, and the return is terrific: many in our 2014 class applied for Provisional Training with your encouragement. Let's make this happen again! Many thanks to our Provisional Chairs and Rachael for their planning of this annual event, and thanks to all of you offering help and to meet our guests.

At our May 7th Meeting, if not earlier, we will have next year's Preference Sheets for you. Thanks go to Rachael Krieps and Adult Teams Co-Chairs Christine Holland and Mary Eckhart for their ever-active roles as liaisons with the curators and our Council as exhibitions are announced—and they will announce a rich slate of touring opportunities for next year.

Also at our meeting on May 7th, we will hold the formal



Vikki Duncan
President

election of the 2015 Docent Council Board. I hope you will participate in our self-governance on that day. New Active Carlos Hernandez' will present his research on Carlos Cruz-Diez' *Physichromie 352*. Our invited speaker is Ken Gonzales-Day, the Los Angeles-based artist whose striking black and white photograph of confronted bronze busts had great presence in *Portrayal/Betrayal* and will be on view again in *Left Coast*.

At our second-to-last meeting of the year on May 21st, Pma Tregenza will present her research on Lehmbruck's *Torso of a Pensive Woman*. Renowned Dada scholar Francis M. Nauman will deliver the 2014 Singh Memorial Lecture in conjunction with *Living in the Timeless: Drawings by Beatrice Wood*. This talk is possible through Sneh Singh's generous endowment in honor of her late husband, Krishnan Singh. I also want to thank Efrem Ostrow for providing the opportunity for us to hear Edward Dolnick last month.

Mark your calendars now, for two June dates. On June 4th at the final Council Meeting for this year, Director Larry Feinberg will share plans for SBMA's renovation, and Melinda Gandara will introduce and lead the Q&A following a special screening for docents of the documentary film *Lutah* on noted architect Lutah Maria Riggs. Then, with jubilation on June 6th, we will celebrate the accomplishments of this year, our docents with service anniversaries of 5, 10, 15, 20, and more years, and the graduation of our 2014 Provisional Class.

Thanks to all of you, it's been a great year to be a docent at SBMA, and we have all of May to do more of what we do so well for our visitors and each other as members of this exceptional Docent Council.

Vikki —

From our Vice President



Molora Vadnais

The bus trip to Pasadena was a great success. Twenty six docents, spouses, and friends visited the Asia Pacific Museum and the Pasadena Museum of California Art. Both museums gave us free admission and we received an excellent tour of the Alfredo Martinez exhibition currently in the Pasadena Museum of California art by Justine, one of their docents. The exhibition featured two SBMA pieces, so it was nice to see some old friends.

Thanks to Gwen Baker for giving us an impromptu presentation on the history of the building and collection of the Asia Pacific Museum and thanks to Sneh Singh for pointing out to us a beautiful sari and thanka that was donated from her and her late husband's art collection.

Many, many thanks to Christine Holland for making all of the arrangements for lunch at McCormick and Schmick and who was unfortunately not able to enjoy the fruits of her labor when she came down with a bout of bronchitis. And thanks to Linda Adams, member of the Social Committee for her assistance to me with the snacks and wine on the bus.

The provisional lunches are complete. Thanks to Gabriella Schooley for arranging them and continuing to do so despite being on bed rest with pneumonia. Thanks also to the hostesses: Christine Holland, Jacqueline Simons, Jean Smith, Irene Stone, Vikki Duncan, Amanda McIntyre, Nancy Estes, Ann Robinson, Denise Klassen, and Tricia Sullivan-Goss.

The annual recruitment event for the new provisional class will be on **May 6 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**. Please try to make it to the event to make potential new recruits feel welcome while they learn about our program. —



Ann Robinson
Student Teams,
Co-chair with Sylvia
Mabee

As we enter the final month of student touring, I'd like to share with all of you the teacher's evaluations of the Power Point presentations and the student tours. From elementary school teachers: "The presentation was delivered in a student-friendly manner, including appropriate vocabulary. The students were focused and interested throughout the presentation. Keep up the good work! We appreciate the classroom visit and the field trip!"

On the Museum tour: "I appreciate the focus on observing the art and the stories the art pieces tell." "This field trip is always one of mine and my students' favorites! Keep up the good work! It's much appreciated!" "It was better than ever! I love having the library tour added!"

I also wanted to include the students' appreciation to docents for their time and expertise. "I liked the upside down light fixture" "One of my favorite things was the Rock, Paper Scissors" "I cannot wait to come back again soon. I love the art museum!" One of the students summed up the remarks of many: "Thank you for showing me all of the beautiful ideas that people make into art."

These evaluations from educators and students are a testament to the commitment and professionalism of this docent council. As the Student Teams Chair these past three years, I am honored to be part of this exceptional outreach program offering children an opportunity to discover the museum as a place where they have a voice and are welcome as active participants interpreting and discovering the art, an experience hopefully leading to a lifetime of museum visits wherever they go. —

From our **Adult Teams**



Christine Holland
Adult Teams Co-chair
with Mary Eckhart

Team members are in place and all dates have been assigned to Docents for Adult Tours through the summer—thanks to everyone who has been flexible and stepped-up to cover tours when there were gaps due to schedule changes or loss of team members.

We are in the process of creating the Preference Sheets for the next touring year, and plan to distribute them at the May 7th Docent meeting and by e mail if needed. I think you all will be intrigued and excited by the curators' plans for next year.

In March 2014, SBMA Docents toured a total of 356 visitors on a total of 55 tours, with an average of 6.5 visitors per tour. Several scheduled tours had zero visitors but overall there was good attendance for all categories of tours.

We continue to provide a valuable service to the Museum and our community, and we should all be proud of our accomplishments. —



I would like to thank all of the evaluating docents for getting their evaluations done and in to me. Also thank you to all the docents I have contacted in the last couple of weeks to see if they have been evaluated and are still on the teams that were set up at the beginning of the year. The majority of evaluations for the year have been completed. Good work! You have all made my life easy. —

Paul Guido, Evaluations Chair

From our **Provisional Instructors**



Provisional Instructors:
Mary Ellen Hoffman, Ralph Wilson

T. S. Eliot tells us “April is the cruelest month”, and while he could be talking about the drought in California, I’m sure he wasn’t describing the month for this year’s Provisional class.

April was the month of growth—in the garden and in the classroom. The Solid Seven are well into formulating and researching their Highlights tours as well as completing their initial student tours. During the month their mornings were filled with VTS practice and Art Talks, and the afternoons were spent in the galleries with each student delivering a new 3-minute presentation from their planned Highlights tour. Be

prepared for some challenging and fascinating tours!

Our thanks go to Kathryn Padgett for a discussion of Highlights tours, to Mei Chih Ho for an enlightening walk-through of the Asian galleries with valuable suggestions for touring students, and to Patty Lee, Curatorial Assistant for Contemporary Art, for an informative look at modernism and post-war and contemporary art. Additional thanks to the active docents who evaluated the provisionals’ student tours: Christy Close, Joan Dewhirst, Vikki Duncan, Kathy Eastman, Francis Hallinan, Denise Klassen, Sylvia Mabee and Ann Robinson.

The provisionals might think of May as the cruelest month, for on the 22nd they present their Highlights tours. However, Mary Ellen and I are expecting May to be their Hallelujah! month with all members of the Class of 2014 becoming exceptionally capable and welcome members of the Docent Council. —

From our **Nominations Chair**



A formal election of the officers will be made by majority vote at the May 7th Docent Council meeting.

We are grateful for all individuals who are willing to dedicate their time to the Docent Council Board and understand that these dedicated volunteers are vital to the continued effectiveness of our organization.

Keep reading to see the slate of officers proposed by the Nominations Committee for the 2014-2015 Docent Council Board. —

Kathryn Padgett
Nominations Chair

Proposed Slate, 2014-2015

President:
Molora Vadnais



Provisional Chairs:
Ralph Wilson &
Mary Ellen Hoffman



Vice President:
Joan Dewhirst



Research:
Barbara Boyd



Secretary:
Linda Adams



Evaluations:
Paul Guido



Treasurer:
Denise Klassen



WebMaster:
Loree Gold



Membership:
Mei Chih Ho



Nominations
Vikki Duncan



Adult Teams:
Christine Holland & Teda Pilcher



Student Teams:
Kathy Eastman



La Muse Editor:
Lori Mohr



Congratulations to all of you. If anyone is not on the list who should be, please email. Thank you! Gail Stichler

5 YEARS



Gwen Baker



Doug McElwain



Kathryn Padgett



Ann Robinson



Queenie Scheurwater



Molora Vadnais

10 YEARS



Mei Chih Ho

15 YEARS



Karen Howsam

40 YEARS:



Virginia Randolph



Jerry Jensen



Ellen Lawson

Docent Book Group



Our final meeting of the year will be on **Monday, May 19**. We won't be reading a book for that meeting. Everyone is invited to bring and talk about an art related book they recommend. We will also vote on what to read for next fall. Please bring your ideas and suggestions.

Where: Laura's house 645 Stoddard lane

RSVP to Laura DePaoli at LDePaoli@verizon.net or 565-9471 if you plan to attend. —

Special Event



What: A reception, lecture and book signing with Bill Dedman, author of *Empty Mansions, the story of Huguette M. Clark*

Where: S.B. Historical Museum. 136 East De La Guerra

Date: Friday, May 9 **Time:** 3PM

Cost: \$10 for members; \$15 for guests. Reservations required; phone 966-1601

Since our book club read this book this year, there may be interest in attending this special event.

Gail Stichler —

Docent Outing



Red: A play about Mark Rothko

Join us for a fun and stimulating Docent outing on **Saturday, May 24** to see "Red," the intriguing play about Mark Rothko, at the New Vic Theatre in downtown Santa Barbara. The Play begins at 4:00 and runs just 90 minutes, so there will be time to gather for a drink and conversation afterwards at the next-door Arlington Tavern. The Ensemble Theatre Company has generously offered our group a \$10 discount on our tickets so the price is just \$36 per ticket. Family and friends are welcome to join us.

"Red," winner of the 2010 Tony Award for Best Play, pits renowned painter Mark Rothko against an idealistic young protege in a thrilling look at the artistic temperament and the relationship between the artist and his creations, as well as primal relationships between father and son, teacher and student. Intense, funny, philosophical, and sensual in its examination of the creative mind, the play—like Rothko's vibrantly colored rectangle paintings - brims with energy and ecstasy. For more information about the play contact: <http://ensembletheatre.com/boxoffice/nowplaying/red>

Please purchase your own tickets at www.etc.sb.org. Use the coupon code: SBMA-D or call the box office for tickets at 965-5400. Be sure to mention that you are with the SBMA docent group.

If you want to join us for drinks (and possibly dinner) after the show, please sign up at the next docent council meeting or email me at moloravadnais@gmail.com.

By Ricki Morse

Photographed by Loree Gold



Ricki is an expert in Latin American art and has been visiting Mexico for 70 years. The 2014 trip is the third excursion she has organized for docents. This article is the first of two parts. ~ LM

Our Central Mexico 2014 trip with cultural anthropologist Florence Moreno was so intense, so image filled, so riveting, that I have needed the intervening weeks to assimilate the kaleidoscope of colors, forms and ideas. What emerges is an experiential grasp of Mexican culture and history that continues to evolve. I am still making connections between the serene, ordered beauty of the pyramids of Teotihuacan and the quiet concentration of Otomi master papermaker Humberto Trejo as he pounds the softened plant fibers into a small sheet of paper with a stone implement identical to those we saw at Teotihuacan. (photo 1) The thread

connecting him to a culture some 2000 years ago is palpable, and though we know nothing about the people of that ancient city (there is no recorded language extant), we certainly met the aboriginal descendant in Humberto's gentle, focused work of nudging the fibers into a beautiful thin sheet of paper. (photo 2)

We met him on the third day of our Mexican adventure. After two packed days in Mexico City, we traveled into the Eastern Highlands, stopping at Teotihuacan, and then on into the seemingly endless forest-covered mountains which surround Pahuatlan, an Otomi Indian village. Hotel San Carlos (photo 3) provided views over the village and mountains as well as proximity to Humberto Trejo, our paper maker, and a change of transport into vans for



1. The Pyramid of the Moon at Teotihuacan, the ancient site outside Mexico City, founded before the Christian era and mysteriously abandoned about 650 CE.



travel along narrow, twisting roads to a tiny Otomi village, home to a women's clothing cooperative. We had already observed the local women in traditional embroidered garments with long unbleached cotton skirts rolled at the waist. As they moved among their geometrically embroidered shirts and blouses, shyly observing us, we cannot imagine how we looked to them, each of us dressed differently, from shoes to hats to earrings. (photo 4)

2 Humberto Trejo, a master paper maker, member of the Otomi peoples gathered in small mountain villages around Pahuatlan in the Eastern Highlands, Hidalgo, Mexico. Here he demonstrates for us the ancient art of paper making.

The forests revealed other treasures. Dorothy Warnock, master gardener and expert on bromeliads, had led me to expect sightings of unusual bromeliads, and these drives through the forest fulfilled our expectations. (photo 5) Resting on the leafless branches of deciduous trees were hundreds, no thousands, of tillandsias (air plants), a type of bromeliad that perches on tree branches for support only, shooting brilliant yellow/scarlet/orange spikes sometimes four to five feet above the base of grey-green spear-shaped leaves, decorating the winter forest with their own silent and exuberant fireworks.



3. View from our Hotel San Carlos of the hills and surrounding Otomi village of Pahuatlan.



4. An Otomi woman with child, member of a women's cooperative, wearing the embroidered garments they market.

our bus ride through the city, from blazing sun to sudden huge raindrops, to a hail storm covering the streets with white marbles, then a return of sunshine—a reminder that at 7000 feet altitude, it is a very different world. Our hotel, Camino Real, between Chapultepec Park and the Polanca District, was hosting Rock and Roll musicians, but the hotel was so large, with four restaurants, a bar floating over a pool and myriad internal garden patios, that we hardly noticed them.

On our first day in the city, Florencio began weaving all of these elements together, the ancient cultures, the aboriginal peoples, the colonial invasions, the years of revolutions, the rise of the Mexican

5. Dorothy Warnock supplied this image of a type of bromeliad called tillandsia which we observed resting in the trees throughout the forests of the Eastern Highlands.

In marked contrast stands the behemoth of Mexico City, over 23 million inhabitants (a quarter of the population of the country), a soccer stadium seating 105,000, a sleek far-reaching transit system, a developing section, Polanca Nueva, that dwarfs Beverly Hills in size and elegance and includes two new art museums, Carlos Slim's Soumaya Museum (photo 6) and the contemporary Jumex Museum next door. One juxtaposition after another assailed us. We were treated to the full range of weather during



Tillandsia lautneri
photo by Pamela Ehlers



6. Sweeping curve of the Soumaya Museum in the Polanca District of Mexico City which offers free admission to its wide-ranging collection of European and New World art.

(an amalgam of all these strains). And he chose the old historic center of the city as our classroom, the zocalo, surrounded by the cathedral, the houses of government and the on-going excavations of the Aztec ruins which commemorate the founding of Mexico City.

Standing before the Diego Rivera mural, “The History of Mexico” which covers the walls of a vast stairwell in the National Palace, we follow this epic through Rivera’s sympathetic images of the struggles of the Mexican people.

Florencio notes a change in Mexico’s descriptions of its population. The term “mestizo” is no longer current. Instead “Mexican” describes the mixture through the centuries of the Indian and European peoples. The term aboriginal denotes the native Indian population, comprising 56 language groups and ten percent of the total population of the country. This shift in nomenclature is similar to that in the United States. Citizens are known as Americans, whether Asian, black, Hispanic or white, and Native Americans describes the indigenous people.

As we tie these threads together we find that when the 14th century Aztecs came upon Teotihuacan, it had long since been deserted, probably by about 650 CE. And in that history-making/story-building instinct of we humans, they imagined it as the place their gods originated and current rulers were thus honored there, incorporating the ancient culture into their own mythology.

A more modern mythologizing as well as immersion in the traditions of a gracious colonial world are provided by the Dolores Olmedo Museum, actually her grand estate in the Coyoacan District in southern Mexico City. (Photo 7) The grounds are populated not only by peacocks and other game birds but is also home to a collection of Xoloitzcuintles, Mexican hairless dogs, revered by the ancients and depicted in carvings and drawings from earliest Mexican history. But the depth and scope of the Rivera and Kahlo collections are the jewels here. The Rivera galleries hold major cubist works from his Paris years and reveal his depth as a painter, while her later works, which seem to exorcise the physical and psychic pain of her life, are transfixing. Dolores Olmeda’s friendship with Diego Rivera and her lifelong support of his work are gracefully and elegantly commemorated by this museum.

Part II will continue to weave our tapestry of influences and emergences through the studio of David Alfaro Siqueiros, a city of amazing restaurants—Cuernavaca—the Xochicalco archeological site, and the mountain silver city of Taxco, all captured by Loree Gold’s camera.



7. Dolores Olmeda Museum, the entrance to her estate, now a remarkable museum devoted to the works of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo.



Docent Nicola Ghersen

This July 11-18, local plein-aire landscape artist Jeremy Harper and teacher Cliff Ghersen (husband of Docent Nicola Ghersen) are leading a small group of 8-10 people on a painting excursion to Norfolk, England. Jeremy will be providing instruction as the group paints images of bucolic country fields, scenic harbors, grand historic estates, thatched-roofed cottages, rivers and waterways. Cliff lived for a year in the area and knows it well.

Guests will be staying in a charming, fully modernized 19th century 7 bedroom manor on 3 acres of landscaped gardens. Included in the trip is lodging, breakfasts and dinners, guided outings, daily ground transportation, painting instruction, canvasses, an English Cream Tea, and more.

Please see website at AwayWeGoTrips.com for information and registration. —



Wayne Thiebaud Retrospective

Laguna Art Museum

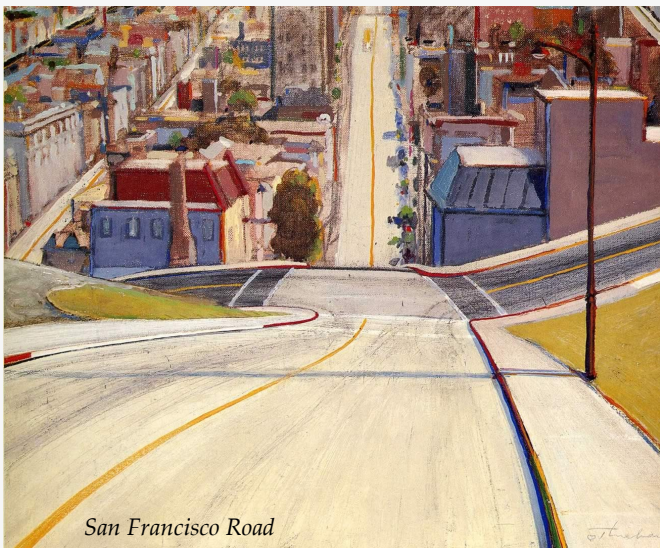
307 cliff Drive (Right above the beach)

Wayne Thiebaud: American Memories

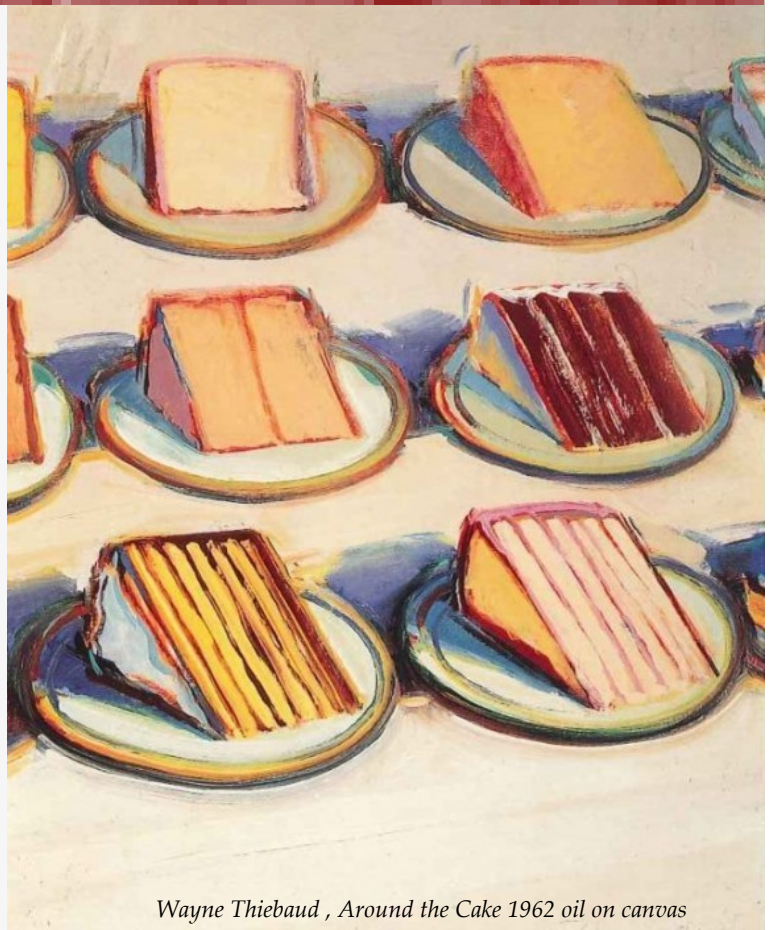
A retrospective

Open 7 days, 11 to 5

Submitted by Ricki Morse



San Francisco Road



Wayne Thiebaud , Around the Cake 1962 oil on canvas

The Last Page



Ellen Lawson, forty years ago, as a new docent

Lori, Mohr Editor
Mohrojai@aol.com

