

Docent Dates

May 6

9:15 Coffee, 10 Meeting;
Election of 2016 Board;
Lecture: Contemporary Art
Curator Julie Joyce on
upcoming contemporary
shows and performances;
Research presentation by
New Active Mary Winder

May 11

2 PM Book Group Meets
Shirley Waxman's home

May 19

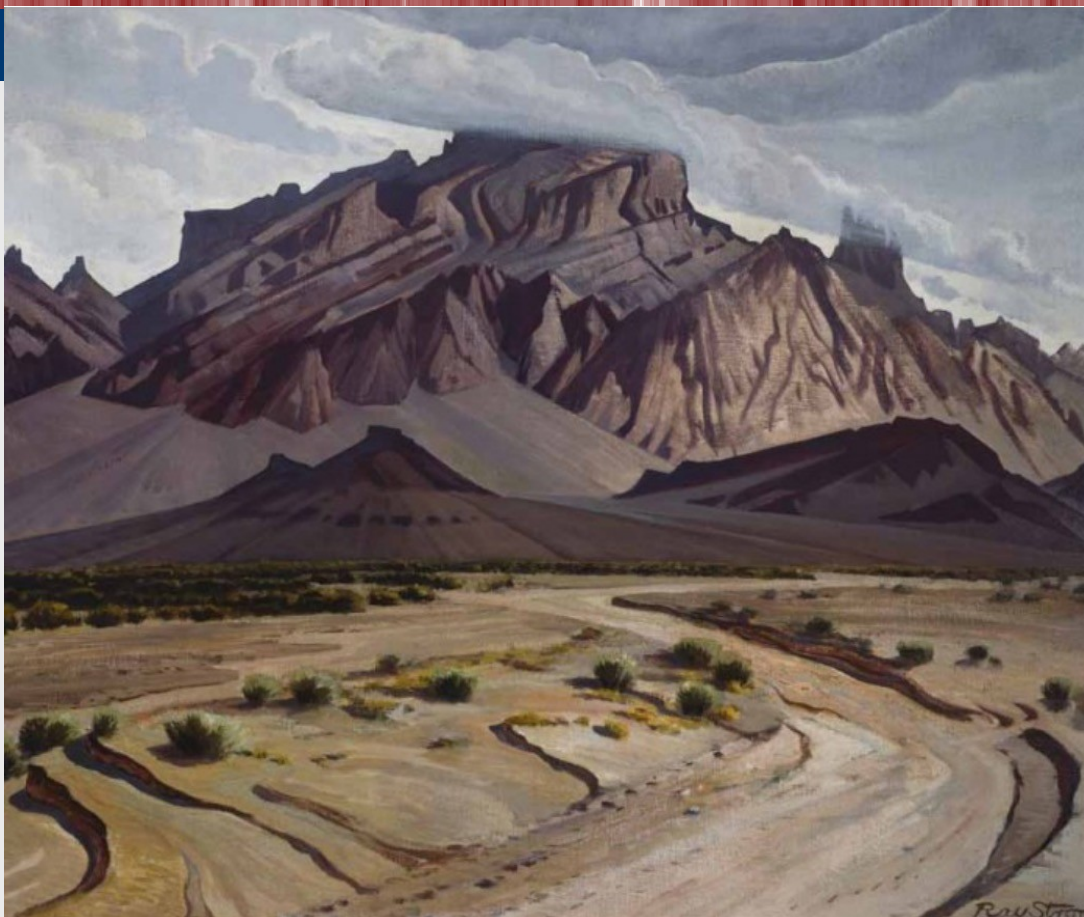
Provisional Reception
Time TBA

May 20

Lecture: Sameer Pandya,
Topic TBD; Research
Presentation by New Active
Wendi Hunter

May 26

Service Recognition
(Time TBA)



Ray Strong, *Requiem for Maynard Dixon*, 1946, Oil on linen, SBMA May 23-June 21

In This Issue

Board Reports	1-5
CPS Update	5
Proposed Board	6
Provisional Update	7
Service Pins	8
Book Group	9
Ricki's Read	10
The Last Page	

Dearest Docents,

Congratulations! The end of the touring season is upon us! Kudos to the hard working student teams who bravely negotiated a smaller museum and many competing adult tours for *Botticelli, Titian, and Beyond*. Having a museum teeming with visitors is a wonderful problem to have on the macro level, but it can be frustrating when trying to negotiate seven 3rd graders around packs of adults for a quiet corner. As expected, our student touring teams handled the extra pressure with aplomb and grace.

Speaking of *Botticelli, Titian, and Beyond*, this special exhibition team rocked. In March alone, team docents gave 27 tours, including regularly scheduled and Special Request. When visitor groups became too large, docents gave extra ad hoc tours and arranged special tours on their own as well. I have heard numerous comments from board members and visitors about the high quality of this team. Congratulations to Irene Stone, Vikki Duncan, Karen Howsam, Jerry Jensen, Gabriella Schooley, Christine Holland, and Shirley Waxman on their hard work enhancing the visitor



Molora Vadnais
President

experience of this unique exhibition.

We will finish out this year with our Service Recognition Ceremony and celebration on **Tuesday, May 26** in the evening. Please join us as we honor fellow docents completing 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service to the Museum in their commitment to the Docent Council.

The Provisional reception will be held on **Tuesday, May 19** in the afternoon (hours TBA). Please join us and talk with the many people showing interest in the program. Ralph Wilson, Mary Ellen Hoffman and the Education Department have come up with plans for all remodel contingencies effecting the galleries, including the possibility of the class going to the Getty to learn touring antiquities.

Next year is SBMA's 75th Anniversary, and the Museum is keen for the Docent Council to play an integral part in the yearlong celebration. Besides the possibility of creating special touring teams, we will also likely promote the anniversary through our new Community Speaker's Program (CPS), the program spearheaded by Kathryn Padgett and Shirley Waxman (see update in this issue). Many thanks to Kathryn and Shirley for taking on this project and demonstrating its viability. By next year the CPS will be grown into a regular docent program.

Molara 

From Our Vice President



Joan Dewhirst

THE STORY IS IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS! Thanks to Doug McElwain and Pma Tregenza who captured the art, and the fun of our bus trip to Westwood on April 15th. The day was picture-perfect for admiring the art in the Franklin Murphy Sculpture Garden. The depth and breadth of UCLA's trove of sculptural objects demands another visit.

Buffet lunch was served al fresco in the atrium of the Hammer and several docents in momentary fits of spring fever twirled with abandon in nearby whirly-gigs (see Last Page) before our tours of two new exhibits.

The art technique of rubbing took on new meaning with "Metal Jacket", a provocative piece in the *Apparitions* show. The architecture and designs in *Provocations* explored the bottomless ingenuity of British architect Thomas Heatherwick. His "hairy building" — the British pavilion for the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai — was dazzling and full of *joie de vivre*.


Our bus ride home was enhanced by delicious snacks and delightful service thanks to Denise Klassen and her agile entourage: Christine Holland, Irene Stone, and Linda Adams. Doug McElwain poured wine with the skill of experience. All-in-all, a memorable day doing what docents love best — looking at art.



UPCOMING FINAL EVENT FOR THIS YEAR*

MONDAY, JUNE 1ST.....Bus Trip to the Weisman Collection in Holmby Hills

CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION Make the check for \$65 to SBMA DOCENT COUNCIL

(Trip is limited to 21 persons) MAIL TO: Nicola Gherson 63 Humphrey Road S.B. 93108 



From our Student Teams



Kathy Eastman
Student Teams

This month Kathy continues her interview with Barbara Ruediger.

“After 34 years I am still surprised at how much fun it has been.” Barbara Ruediger was a volunteer in her son’s third grade when the class visited SBMA in 1980. Intrigued by the docent tour and the training program, she joined the provisional class of 1981 and has never looked back.

Barbara assumed a position as student team leader in her second year and with the exception of one year as a Provisional Instructor, has been a student team leader for 33 years. “We toured classes from 11-noon and 1-2 with an hour break for lunch. A member of the touring team would visit the classroom with a slide presentation prior to the scheduled visit. Before the renovation in 1982, all visitors entered through the State Street doors.”

The position of Membership Chair was developed in 1990 when the Program began to award service pins. Barbara served in that position for 4 years, was Treasurer for 1 year, head of Student Teams for 5 years, and served as Chair of Classroom Slide Talks when that was a Board position.

“The Siqueros Mural arrived in 2001, creating a lot of attention and a new challenge to student touring”. There have been many challenges over the years. “During a Rodin exhibit a teacher of a 5th grade class called, requesting that his students not tour the exhibit due to the nudity. Impressed by his own visit to the exhibit, he called again saying he had changed his mind”.

After 20 years Barbara stopped touring adults to concentrate on student touring. “With adults you don’t get the same type of creative spontaneous response as you do with students”.

Barbara carefully prepares for each student tour, using visual aids she has collected over the years. She coordinates team members with quiet grace. “I have noticed a big increase in the number of parent volunteers, especially fathers coming to SBMA with their children”.

This week after her final tour, her team will take her out for a celebration lunch. When she was asked recently what has surprised her most about being a docent at SBMA she replied, “After 34 years, I am still surprised at how much fun it has been”. 🍷



Barbara, early in her docent career

From Our Adult Teams



Christine Holland

Docent tours in all categories continue to enjoy excellent attendance. The *Botticelli* team added an extra 2 o'clock tour on Sunday afternoons. *Ten Talks* had extra tours on the First Thursday night in March with over 100 visitors in the museum at any given time. Several 100-plus groups of high school students were toured.

March tour numbers were even better than February. Docents toured 1167 visitors on 78 tours for an average of 15 per tour. The total was comprised of 65 regular tours and 13 Special Requests for *Botticelli*. April is likely to have similarly fabulous numbers. *Botticelli* alone will approximate 400 visitors on regular tours and 550 on Special Requests.

Docents continue helping visitors connect with art, fulfilling the SBMA mission.

Congratulations to all of us. 🍷

The Community Speakers Program: An Update



Shirley and I are delighted to report the Community Speaker's Program (CSP) is off and running! On March 30th I made a presentation to the Board of Trustees. They were very enthusiastic, understanding the program's potential for increasing awareness of the Museum through art education.

In addition to presentations in the community, we are featuring the CSP on the Museum website and blog, sending out press releases—one of which resulted in a feature article in Noozhawk—and sending email advertisements.

These strategies have yielded positive results. Shirley has already given four *Botticelli, Titian & Beyond* presentations (photo below) to organizations, including The Little Town Club, the Santa Barbara Library, The Californian, and Heritage House. I have given two *European Artistic Revolution: 70 Amazing Years* presentations, one at The Californian and one at the UCSB Student Museum Association. I'm scheduled for five more: Alexander Gardens, Solvang Library, Institute of World Culture, Goleta Library, and the Yacht Club.

Two groups have scheduled follow-up docent tours, which is the goal of speaking to these organizations—bringing people to the Museum where they can experience the art in person.

We are thrilled the CPS is being received with such Enthusiasm! Requests for presentations are a sure sign the program is taking off. Shirley and I are working hard, adding new themes to our list of offerings. If you are a part of an organization or know of one that would enjoy a presentation, let me know. 🍷

Kathryn Padgett
Shirley Waxman



From Our **Nominations Chair**



Vikki Duncan

A formal election of the officers for next service year will be made by majority vote at the May 6th Docent Council meeting. We are grateful for all who are willing to dedicate their time as officers on the Board. Such participation is vital to the continued effectiveness of our organization. The slate of officers proposed by the Nominations Committee for the 2015-2016 Docent Council Board:



President:
Joan Dewhirst



Vice-President:
Gail Stichler



Secretary:
Vikki Duncan



Treasurer:
Denise Klassen



Membership:
Mei Chih Ho



Student Teams
Sylvia Mabee



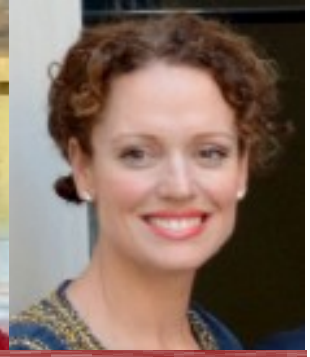
Adult Teams: Co-Chair
Christine Holland



Adult Teams: Co-Chair
Teda Pilcher



Research Co-Chair
Barbara Boyd



Research Co-Chair
Monica Babich



Evaluations:
Paul Guido



Provisional Co-Chair:
Ralph Wilson



Provisional Co-Chair:
Mary Ellen Hoffman



Nominations/Past Pres
Molora Vadnais



Webmaster:
Loree Gold



Ralph Wilson

In discussions with the Education Department, officers and board of the Docent Council, all are agreed that we will have a provisional class beginning this fall for the 2015-2016 year.

Due to the fluid state of the galleries and specific artworks during ongoing renovation, the provisional class syllabus will be adapted to make use of available works as we exercise the notable flexibility we have each adopted as a way of docent life.

Much of the course content will remain the same, but some *major changes* to the organization and assignments are being introduced, as follows:

Conduct the class on Wednesday instead of Thursday

Council meeting lectures are more relevant to touring than Thursday Art Talks

Class will attend lecture only, not business segment of meeting

Focus each term on specific aspect of the docent role

Fall term: Fundamentals of Art and the Art of Touring Students

Winter term: The Art of Touring Adults

Spring term: The Art of the Highlights Tour

Re-introduce the requirement to observe a classroom PowerPoint presentation

Require three student touring evaluations, ideally each a different grade level

Fall term: Present one piece on a student tour

Winter term: Present two pieces with transition on a student tour

Spring term: Conduct a complete student tour

Introduce a lecture/discussion of safety rules with Security personnel

Please direct any questions to Mary Ellen or Ralph. Throughout the coming year we ask your cooperation and understanding for what will certainly be a challenging but exhilarating year for the Docent Council.



The Artist Project, A Clip

Submitted by Christine Holland

Here is the link to a 3minute video of an artist talking about a painting by Monet at the Metropolitan Museum in NYC. It's an interesting look through his eyes, plus, some ravishing close-close-ups of the canvas.

"Something that is so sort of horrible turns into this exquisite daydream." George Condo

Subject: George Condo on Claude Monet's *The Path through the Irises* | The Artist Project Season 1

<http://artistproject.metmuseum.org/1/george-condo/#.VTsB0tUn-Y0.mailto>

Service Recognition Pin Recipients

30 Years



Faith Henkin

25 Years



Ricki Morse

20 Years



Amanda McIlhenny

15 Years



Laura De Paoli

15 Years



Loree Gold

10 Years



Christine Holland

5

Years



Sue Billig



Vikki Duncan

5

Years



Kathy Eastman

Rosemarie Gebhart



Andrea Gallo



Gail Stichler





Our next meeting, the last of this docent year, is on
Monday, May 11th at 2 pm,
 at Shirley Waxman's home, 675 Cold Springs Rd, Montecito.

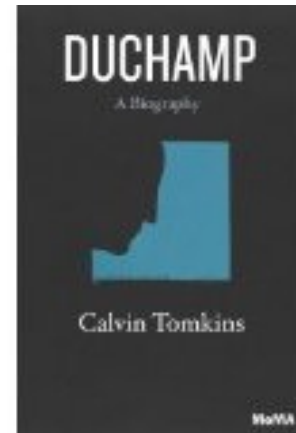
We will be discussing **Duchamp: A Biography by Calvin Tomkins**, a book that complements our upcoming Moholy-Nage show and will add to our understanding of the innovations and experimentation undertaken by artists in the 20th century.

Mr. Tomkins is a long time writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. The biography was originally published in 1996, then updated and reissued by MoMA in 2014 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Duchamp's first readymade, "Bicycle Wheel." It's a very readable account of an enormously influential artist and a fascinating and very charming man.

From Goodreads:

A New York Times Notable Book of 1996
Booklist Editor's Choice, 1996

The celebrated, full-scale life of the century's most influential artist. One of the giants of the twentieth century, Marcel Duchamp changed the course of modern art. Visual arts, music, dance, performance--nothing was ever the same again because he had shifted art's focus from the retinal to the mental. Duchamp sidestepped the banal and sentimental to find the relationship between symbol and object and to unearth the concepts underlying art itself. The author's intimacy with the subject and glorious prose style, wit, and deep sense of irony--"the only antidote to despair"--make him the perfect writer to bring this stunning life story to intelligent readers everywhere.



We will also be choosing a book for our summer reading, and discussing recommendations for the fall. If you would like to make a suggestion for either please email or speak to Laura DePaoli, ldepaoli@verizon.net. Please rsvp to Shirley Waxman if you would like to attend book group. 🍷

Note: Efrem Ostrow's new address,

courtesy of Kathryn Padgett and Efrem's friend, Gordon Werner:

Maravilla

5486 Calle Real, Apt A 218

Santa Barbara 93111

By Ricki Morse



I haven't been this excited about a writer since I opened Haruki Murakami's *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* in 2010.

According to Reif Larson, Gabriel Garcia Marquez is a major influence, which is abundantly apparent from the opening scene of *I Am Radar*, his just-published second novel. I wish I could offer a review, but I am on page 112 of the 648 page tome, and don't have the time or the requisite beach for an extended power read.

Larsen was born in 1980 in Boston, educated at good schools, parented by artists, and is currently a writer in residence at The University of St. Andrew's in Scotland. His first novel, unlike every other first novel I know of, drew a lively competition among publishers, ultimately earning Larsen a million dollar advance for *The Selected Works of T. S. Spivet* in 2008.

He illustrates his books with marginalia—jotting, drawings, maps, documents—and describes his work as “non-linear reading.” He employs this talent for informed doodling on his personal web site at <http://www.reiflarsen.com>, a quirky, engaging introduction to his surprising mind.

His writing in *Radar* may be “non-linear”, but Larson leads us to a profound question: How do we come to know our children?

Join me. You are in for a great read. 🍷



Photo from Genstaltenspace, Berlin

In Our Own Backyard



VISIT THE ARTISTS & TOUR THEIR STUDIOS
MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND
MAY 9TH & 10TH

Reception: Friday, May 11 from 5pm to 7pm at the Arts Center

Please visit www.carpinteriaartscenter.org for more information



The Carpenteria Studio Artists Tour

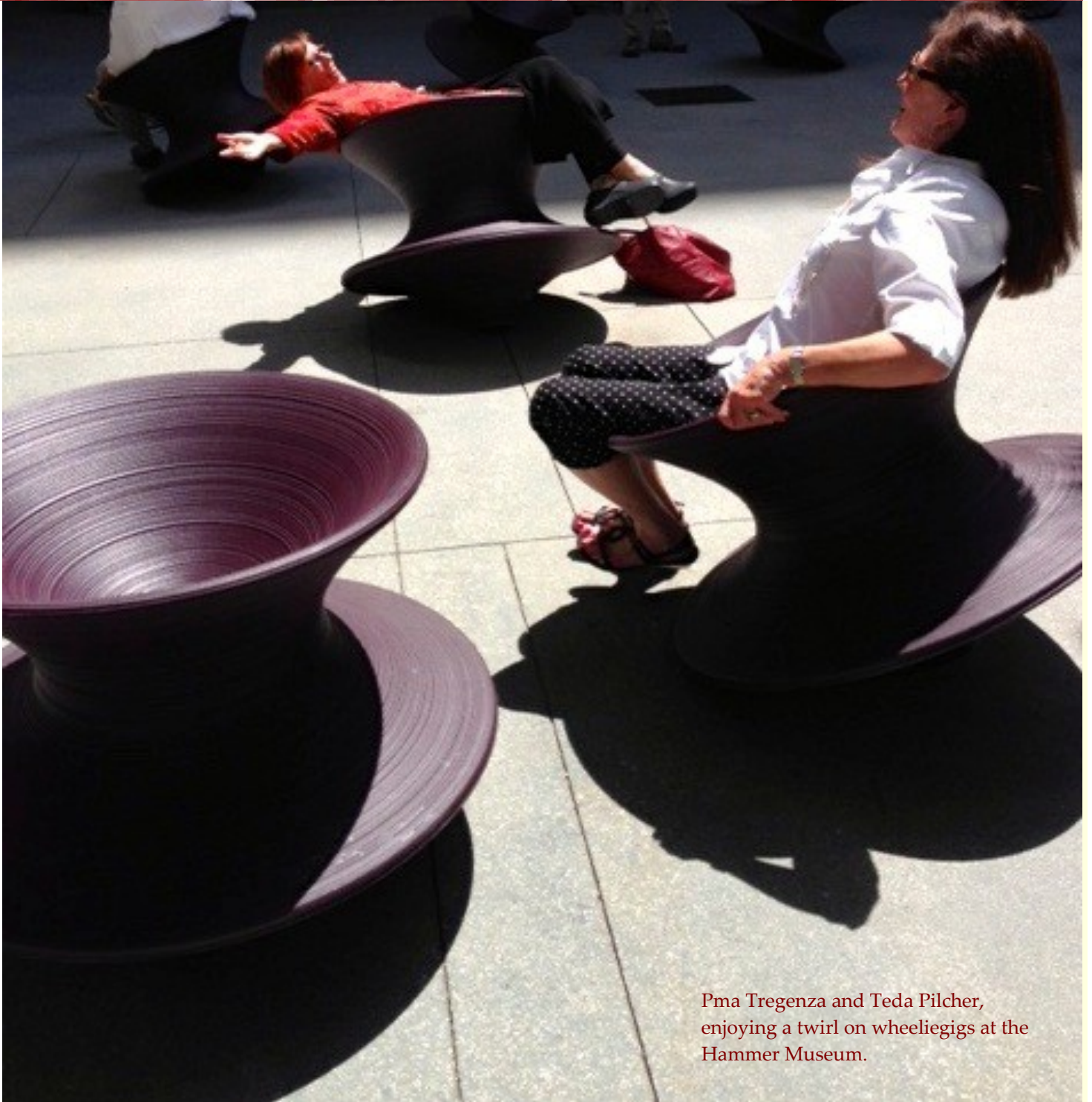
Submitted by Teda Pilcher

This year 32 artists studios are featured on the tour including Whitney Abbotts' (Meredith will be showing with her) Tom Henderson, John Wullbrandt, Tani Conrad and other well known local artists. It is a chance for the public to step into their studios and have an intimate conversation with the artists as well as collect art directly from the artist. 🍷

Presented by: **VILLAGE PROPERTIES REALTORS** **Chris Baker Studio.com** **JOHN MARRS PHOTOGRAPHY**

Carpinteria Arts Center, 855 Linden Avenue • Thursday through Monday • 10 am to 4 pm • (805) 684-7789

THE LAST PAGE



Pma Tregenza and Teda Pilcher,
enjoying a twirl on wheeliechairs at the
Hammer Museum.

Lori Mohr, Editor
Mohrojai@aol.com

