

## Docent Dates

Lectures 10 am  
Coffee 9:15

### January 16

Siemon Scamell-Katz: Visual sciences and cognitive psychology.

### February 6

UCSB Professor,  
"Brilliant Spectrum"

### February 20

Speaker TBD

### March 6

TBD

### March 20

TBD

### April 3

**NO MEETING**  
**Field Trip TBD**

### April 17

Dane Goodman and  
Alison Saar

### May 1

TBD

### May 15

TBD

### May 17

Service Recognition  
Ceremony



Kwame Brathwaite: *Untitled (Ethel Parks at AJASS Studios Photoshoot)*, 1969, from *A Brilliant Spectrum, Recent Gifts of Color Photography to the Collection*, SBMA opening January 27, 2019  
INTERNAL USE

Holiday Greetings Fellow Docents! Happy New Year to you all.

We can look forward to a busy spring—touring, council meetings, plus social activities and a bus trip to some wonderful venue that I'm sure Mary will soon reveal! On the business side, Patsy is working hard to fill the TBA meeting speakers, so I hope to have that info by the next *La Muse* or before. It's been a challenge this year.

Looking ahead, the Education staff, Vikki Duncan, Erika Budig, Mary Joyce and I will be working on how to build the Provisional Docent class for 2019-2020 and figure out ways of attracting more applicants. Also in January, we will also begin the nominations process for next year's Docent Council board.

Finally, another round of applause to Mary Joyce for the fabulous Holiday Party at the Grassini Wine Tasting Room.

See you all at our first meeting January 16, 2019. Until then, enjoy wherever you are and whatever you are doing!

Cheers! *Mary Ellen*



Mary Ellen Hoffman,  
President

## From our Vice President



Mary Joyce Winder

Happy New Year to All!

Docent's celebrated the Holiday Season with our annual party on Monday, December 10, at the Grassini Wine Tasting Room, located in the historic district downtown. In addition to the delightful company and delicious food, the event hosted a Docent Art Exhibition. Twelve artists shared their work: Loree Gold, Rosemary Gebhart, Ann Hammond, Isabel Downs, Kim Smith, Mary J. Winder, Gail Stichler, Nicola Gherson, Patti Firestone, Gretel Rothrock, Christine Holland and Linda Adams. The artwork was displayed throughout the charming rooms as the fireplace added a warm glow to our gathering.

Over eighty people signed up to attend the festivities, including docents, sustainers, Education Department staff, curators and our Executive Director. Many spouses and partners attended as well. I want to thank all the artists who shared their special gifts to an audience who seemed to thoroughly enjoy the exhibition and themselves. Thank you to everyone who attended.

As the New Year arrives I look forward to our next adventure together, our Spring Bus Trip. Until we meet again at our January 16 Docent Council Meeting, I wish you a safe and happy New Year.

MJ

*Mary Joyce*

## From our Student Teams Chair



Happy New Year!

Student teams toured 144 students from grades three through ten in December.

Making wishes for our 2019 student tours to be magical, spell binding, and filled with illumination!

*Karen*



NOTE: [Gretelrothrock@gmail.com](mailto:Gretelrothrock@gmail.com)

## From our Adult Teams Chair



Irene Stone

With both *Paths of Gold* (beginning November 16) and *Let It Snow!* tours offered on the calendar, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of visitors and in the number of special request tours. We also need to thank our docents for inviting more visitors and encouraging special request tours, which increased from 3 to 4 in November, and average numbers going from 5.3 visitors per tour in October to 19 per tour in November.

And, the total number of visitors on regularly scheduled tours increased from 187 in October to 240 in November, an increase in average visitors per tour from 4.8 to 6.5 in November, the latest statistics that we have. I encourage you to attend some of our offered tours, if you haven't done so.

Happy New Year to you all, with wishes for peace and civility in the new year!

Irene Stone

## From our Community Speakers Program



Team Leaders Kathryn Padgett and Shirley Waxman

This calendar year saw the Community Speakers Program team doing a total of 77 presentations for 1,789 attendees. Shirley and I are deeply grateful for the dedication, team spirit, and quality programs exhibited by our members—Joan Dewhirst, Mary Eckhart, Gretchen Simpson, and Molora Vadnais.

And our team is growing! Shirley and I are pleased to announce Lori Mohr has joined our team. Her first talk is titled, "Art of the Great Depression: FDR'S New Deal."

We are looking forward to a productive and interesting 2019! The CSP team wishes our docent family a very Happy New Year filled with love, laughter, and all things wonderful!



*Kathryn*

**Correction:** Loree Gold pointed out that in the November issue of *La Muse*, the man next to Nicola is her handsome husband, Cliff, not her handsome father.



## Best Art of 2018

By Roberta Smith, Holland Colter and Jason Farago: The art critics of The New York Times tell you what rocked their worlds this year: notable art events, works in museums and galleries, emerging artists.

Excerpted from the NYT, December 5, 2018, (with one-time use permission).



Some highlights of the year included, from top left, Hilma af Klint, Bruce Nauman, Huma Bhabha, Antonio Canova, Charles White and Eugène Delacroix. (Credits listed on website)

### Roberta Smith **Winners and Losers**

When the going gets rough, there's always art. It can soothe and teach you, and arm you with new tools and perspectives with which to face the world. This year had some great winners and obvious losers.

#### **Winner: Art History, Refigured**

One of the most thrilling winners was European and American art history. Magnificent exhibitions at three

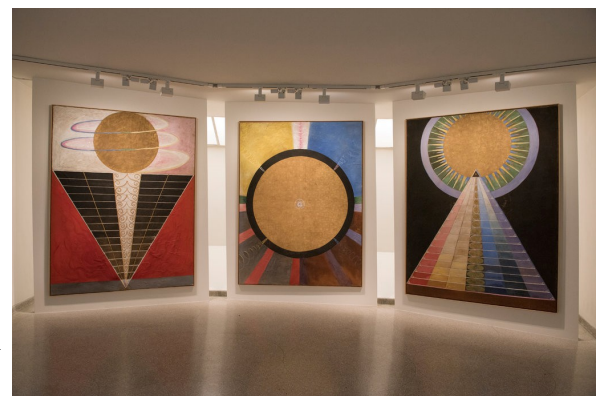
museums advanced new research in areas that had seemed thoroughly explored. The Guggenheim Museum of-  
fers a revisionary chapter about the start of modern abstraction in its current headliner, [“Hilma af Klint: Paintings for the Future,”](#) introducing works that this Swedish artist and mystic made in 1906-7. Suddenly, the most sacred genesis tale of Modernism — the invention of abstract painting — has acquired a female actor who actually got there several years ahead of the revered triumvirate of Kandinsky, Mondrian and Malevich. Af Klint's joyous paintings, with their radical palette, scale and openness, push abstraction toward the future. (Through April 23.)

Another gauntlet landed with [“Posing Modernity: The Black Model From Manet and Matisse to Today,”](#) at the Wallach Art Gallery of Columbia University. Partnering with the Musée d'Orsay, the Wallach has combined some great paintings (by Manet, Bazille, Degas, Matisse and Bearden) with fascinating ephemera, bringing new detail about the plight and presence of black women in late-19th-century Paris life and art, and following this theme through the Harlem Renaissance into the present. (Through Feb. 10.)

In Washington, the Smithsonian American Art Museum unveiled [“Between Worlds: The Art of Bill Traylor,”](#) a stunning retrospective of this once-unknown outsider genius (1853-1949), a former slave and tenant farmer who spent the last decade of his precarious life making drawings on the streets of Montgomery, Ala. Effortless in their fusion of narrative and form, Traylor's images distill memories harsh and pleasant into taut silhouettes on found cardboard. They now count among the greatest works of 20th-century American art, and thanks to a magnificent catalog, the artist is obscure no more. The show will not travel, so plan a trip to Washington. (Through March 17.)

#### **Winner: Van Gogh Again**

The year brought an outstanding movie about a painter: Julian Schnabel's [“At Eternity's Gate,”](#) an intimate, atmospheric treatment of the last days of Vincent van Gogh. Such endeavors rarely attain credibility, and yet this century now boasts two, the other being Mike Leigh's lavish “Mr. Turner” (2014). “At Eternity's Gate” is carried



A series of Altarpieces in “Hilma af Klint: Paintings for the Future” at the Guggenheim use ascending and descending triangles set against energized orbs. Mysticism informed her pioneering abstraction.

by its star, Willem Dafoe, whose gripping performance is aided by his uncanny resemblance to the artist. Mr. Schnabel's stated goal was to desensationalize the story of van Gogh — usually depicted as a mad artist who killed himself and died in obscurity. The movie makes a good case against each of those points, starting with its plain, unsensational style. What we get is an impassioned, articulate artist who adored nature and painting it and had a touchingly codependent relationship with his younger brother Theo. Mr. Schnabel also sides with those who argue that van Gogh did not commit suicide and proposes that he was killed by two youths playing with a gun.



Willem Dafoe as Vincent van Gogh in "At Eternity's Gate," a film directed by Julian Schnabel. Credit Lily Gavin/CBS Films

### Winner: A Genre Revitalized

Former President Barack Obama and the former first lady Michelle Obama elevated a dreary academic ritual — the official White House portrait — making a routine post-presidential event an instance of change. Seeing advantage in the renewed liveliness of figure painting, the couple chose a well-known painter, Kehinde Wiley (for Mr. Obama's portrait), and a lesser-known artist, Amy Sherald (for Mrs. Obama's). The depictions at the [National Portrait Gallery](#) are more than good enough — and the better for being such distinctive, explicitly human departures from a fossilized tradition that, with luck, will never be the same.



### Winners: The Citizens of Chicago

A much-loved public mural by the painter Kerry James Marshall is staying put. Called "Knowledge and Wonder," it was commissioned in 1995 for the Chicago Public Library's Legler branch, on the city's West Side, and celebrates the library as a source of mystery and wonder for children. With Mr. Marshall's profile and his prices on the rise, the city decided to sell it at Christie's, hoping to raise \$10 million to fund an expanded library and a new public-art program. But with rising prices come increased clout, and when [Mr. Marshall objected](#) to the sale of his 10-by-23-foot work, the

mayor, [Rahm Emanuel, reversed course.](#)

### Holland Carter Best in Show

In 2018, a politically shuddersome year, the international art world was both out to lunch and on the alert. Art fairs and auctions continued to serve as conveyor belts for investment capital. Cheerleading and celebrity chat passed for discourse. At the same time, a spirit of resistance was building, and some critical projects came to pass. through in our distracted age was the radical nature of his spiritual composure.

TO READ the entire article click:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/05/arts/design/best-art.html>

## Sampling from the Holiday Party Docent Art Show



NICOLA GHERSEN

*Locked in Time, c. 2017*

Assemblage Piece

The inspiration for this piece came from some hand written love letters I found on my travels. The assemblage process allowed me to “set the stage” for that story and invites the viewer to create one of their own. *Nicola Gherson*



LINDA ADAMS

*Chinese Madonna, c. 2017*

Photograph

So many treasures to be found in a Farmer's Market.

*Linda Adams*



MARY JOYCE WINDER

*1974 – Sunrise, Sunsets. 1974*

Gelatin Silver Prints

I took these photographs in 1974 when I was 20 years of age. The United States was experiencing a shift in perspective. The Vietnam war had just ended, a sunset... On the sunrise, a belief in peace. *Mary J Winder*

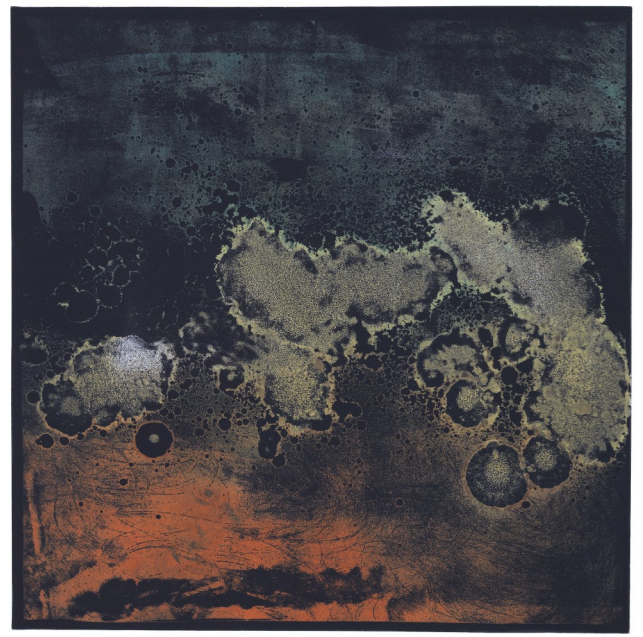


ANN HAMMOND

*After 9/11, Stearns Wharf, c. 2001*

Watercolor

Our son, Sam, graduated from Rugby School in England, and was checked into UCSB when 9/11 occurred. Our flight was delayed for several days during the chaos that followed. Once in California, we stayed down at West Beach for a week before returning to London. In a somber moment I sat on the beach and painted this. *Ann Hammond*



ROSEMARIE C. GEBHART

*Whirlpool, c. 2016*

Viscosity Monotype

The issue of climate change is close to my heart.

*Rosemarie Gebhart*



GRETEL PORTERA

*Peruvian Vision, c. 2008*

Acrylic Painting

Vision from the Peruvian Andes at sunset.

*Gretel Portera*



CHRISTINE HOLLAND

*Mom sells at the Oaxaca Market and I get a Papaya, c. 2016*

Oil Painting

This painting was done from a photograph I took in the market in Oaxaca during a docent trip organized by Ricki Morse, which was a fabulous introduction to the history, culture, crafts, arts, and Mezcal of the region. I thought the boy was so great; he was just loving that papaya. *Christine Holland*



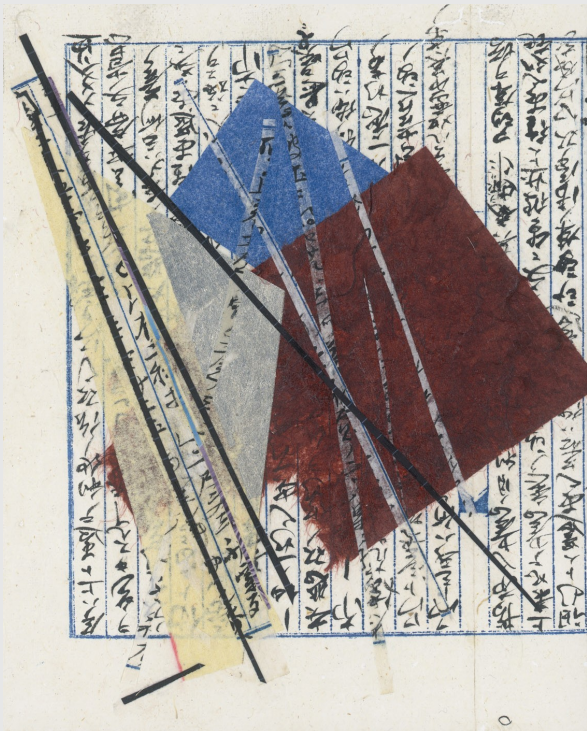
ISABEL DOWNS

*Tidepool Souvenirs – Littoral Memories,*  
c. 2015

Fabric, Ribbons, Buttons, Origami

One of a series of three quilts depicting California's threatened coastal communities. This piece shows the richness of the tide pools my marine biologist husband and I once enjoyed exploring but which are rarely seen nowadays due to the significant changes in weather patterns that affect sand movement.

*Isabel Downs*



GAIL STICHLER

*Untitled, c. 2013*

Mixed Media

As a child, my parents' home had beautiful Asian artwork. My mother had a friend who lived in Europe and Asia during the 1950s who sent me dolls from the places she was working. My favorite was a handmade doll of a Japanese wood gatherer. My sense of the world was deepened by these examples of places far away from Southern California. My eye and my appreciation for Asian aesthetics were influenced by my mother who had an innate sense of beauty.

*Gail Stichler*



## Isabel Downs at the Wilding Museum



### *Nature through the eye of a needle*

**Isabel Downs Fiber Artist**

January 9 - March 30

Wildling Museum of Art & Nature  
151 I-B Mission Drive  
Solvang, CA 93463

[ifdowns@gmail.com](mailto:ifdowns@gmail.com)   [isabelsquirts.virb.com](http://isabelsquirts.virb.com)

Sustaining docent Isabel Downs will be the Featured Local Artist at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang. Isabel and her marine biologist husband Bob Warner will present a joint artist's talk on Sunday February 10 at 3 pm at the museum. Make it a day in the country — wildflowers on Figueroa Mountain, lunch in Solvang (maybe treat yourself to an aebleskiver?) and a visit to the museum February 10 or any day that works for you, January through March.



# Docent Holiday Party

## Grassini Winery

Photos by Mary Winder and Stephen Hiatt





