

La Muse

DOCENT DATES

October 3 (1 and 2 pm)
Docent Walkthrough, James
Glisson on *Marshall Brown*.

October 5 NO MEETING

October 17 (1 pm)
Docent Walkthrough,
Charlie Wylie: *Time of Gifts*

October 19 Meeting
Lauren Karazija on *Opacity*

November 2 Meeting
Nell Campbell

November 16 Meeting
Susan Tai on Southeast
Asian Art

December 7 Meeting
Eik Khang on *Kubin: From
Symbolism to Surrealism*

December 12, 4-7 PM
Holiday Party

January 4, 2023

January 18

February 1

February 15

March 1

March 15

April 5

May 3

May 17

Graduation TBD



Marshall Brown,
Pantheon, collage on archi-
val paper, 2020, mu-
seum purchase with
funds provided by the
General Acquisition
Fund, Santa Barbara
Museum of Art, 2022.
We recognize Frank
Gehry's galleries in the
NYC Guggenheim Mu-
seum recontextualized
as a modern pantheon.

*Submitted by Ricki Morse
Class of 1990*

From the editor

Dear Docents, It's been a long three months since our July *La Muse*! In this issue, you will find short bios on our new provisionals—20 docents-in-training! Well done, Education Dept and Council Board! In this issue, if you missed the September 21st meeting, meet Molly Kemper, our new Coordinator of School Programs. Also, enjoy Josie Martin's essay as she looks back 20 years at the arrival of our David Alfaro Siqueiros mural, *Portrait of Present Day Mexico*. Her essay is just in time for touring, the mural a favorite with students.

Lori Mohr, Editor, 2009—

Dear Docents,

Our service year kicked off in mid-September with me and Teda Pilcher continuing our docent council tradition of the president and vice president attending the biennial National Docent Symposium, this year held year in Kansas City. The 3-day symposium offers a forum for ongoing education for both U.S. and Canadian docents. Teda and I went to museum-educator lectures, workshops, panel discussions, and tours of local museums.

The experience was incredibly useful. While visiting the Deaf History, Art and Culture Museum (none of the docents could speak), I learned the basics of sign language, which tied in beautifully with our own docent lectures last year on diversity



Karen Howsam
Docent Council
President

and inclusion. I also attended the seminars, “50 Visits into the Community” and “The Connected Docent Tour,” both focusing on how docents can better involve a wide diversity of visitors.

We have a busy service year ahead. I’m looking forward to it with all of you! ■

Karen

From Vice President Teda Pilcher



Dear Docents,

Welcome to the 2022 -2023 service year, and welcome to our 20 new provisional students! As Vice President, it is my job to arrange at least three art-related field trips for docents (and provisionals) as well as organize our docent holiday party. That celebration will take place once again at Josie Martin’s lovely home, **December 12th, from 4-7pm**. Details to follow. Thank you Josie and Ed! Please note – at 5:30 pm we will introduce the new provisional class. You won’t want to miss it! To help with the field trips and holiday party, I am forming one or two committees. If you can offer a hand, I could use one.

This month we have three curator-led walkthroughs scheduled. Remember, there is no council meeting October 5th. Instead, on October 3rd at 1:00 and 2:00 pm, James Glisson will walk us through his new exhibit, “The Architecture of Collage: Marshall Brown”. On October 17th at 1:00pm, Charlie Wylie will take us through his new exhibit, “A Time of Gifts”. All docents are invited. To reserve a space, text or call me at 412-913-7881 or email to tedapilcher@yahoo.com. Or email Patty at patricia.santiago@sbma.net

Last minute news flash! Docent trip to USC Pacific Asian Museum. Oct. 26 OR Nov. 3. Pencil in the date. Details to follow.

This year looks to be as inspiring and adventurous as the last but hopefully, without Covid!

Teda

Meet Molly Kemper: Student Tours



Molly is new to the council, but not to SBMA. She has been fundraising in the Development Department since early 2020. The Museum has never had someone who worked in both the Education and Development Departments simultaneously, and is looking forward to finding ways both can support each other for the betterment of the entire SBMA Institution.

Before joining the Museum, Molly garnered nine years of nonprofit fundraising experience at the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara as Special Events Coordinator and Development Assistant. Prior to that she worked for Santa Barbara Unified School District, as an A-OK! Program Site Coordinator, Instructional Aid, and substitute teacher. Molly holds a B.A. in Dramatic Arts from UCSB with a specialization in stage/theatre management. (continued)

She has served as President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals local chapter, the Board of the PONY Baseball League, led the Steering Committee for National Philanthropy Day, and recently joined the SB High School Computer Science Academy Board, where her son just started as a freshman. She is excited to get more involved in student life as a SBHS Dons parent, loves attending concerts at the Santa Barbara Bowl, and enjoys hosting friends and family for parties and gatherings.

Molly is also looking forward to meeting and working with not only Student Teams, but with all docents in the council. ■

From our **Student Teams Co-chairs**
Nicola Gershen and Irene Stone



Nicola Gershen

We are looking forward to a busy year of challenging and collaborative student tours beginning this month. We welcome Molly Kemper, our new Manager of School Programs, who will be providing our monthly schedules. With her easy, warm manner, she has been a huge help during our tour preparation, and we thank Molly for our continuing dialogue.



Irene Stone

Our student touring docents recently participated in a meeting titled "Reset for Fall," an opportunity to review our standard protocols, practices which have faltered these last years. We thank Patty Santiago, our new Director of Docent Programs, for reviewing the revised website and discussing basic techniques as described in the new publication by the National Docent Symposium Council, "Tours with Children and Teens."

We have a major change this fall—all student tours will meet and depart from the State Street entrance until the library construction is completed, which could impact some adult tours.

We appreciate all our student touring docents, whose enthusiasm and creative preparation makes for the best kind of collaboration. Feel free to send us any suggestions, questions or comments.

Happy touring year to all! ■

Irene and Nicola

From our **Adult Teams Co-chairs**
Denise Klassen and Susan Lowe



Denise Klassen

Welcome Back!

The adult tours have started for the year and we are so grateful to all of you for all the work, flexibility and dedication that you showed in last year's very challenging touring calendar.

Adult Teams have been selected for this year's touring calendar, which is available on our docent website. Tours will start at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, tours will be offered at 11:30 am and 1 pm. Please review



Susan Lowe

your team assignments to make sure the new scheduling works. If you have any conflicts or concerns, contact Denise Klassen nyceklassen@icloud.com or Susan Lowe susanlowe44@aol.com right away so that we can make adjustments. (continued)

As of now the museum is not requiring us to wear masks, but feel free to wear one if you so choose.

We also want to remind you all to fill out the “Red Book,” which is always available at the front desk. This information provides important data compiled by Museum for use in grant applications as well as demonstrating how vital our docent touring work is—the numbers of visitors we guide through the Museum exhibitions. So please remember to fill that out. Note that there are two separate areas to sign—one for regularly scheduled tours and one for the “Special Request” tours.

Now that we can again meet in person, we encourage all the teams to share their research, information we all need in preparing our tours. Please also consider sending that research on to Sarajum Quazi, our brilliant Research Chair, to post on our docent website for all docents.

We hope you are looking forward to touring this year as much as we are. ■

Denise & Susan

From our **Evaluations Co-chairs**
Shirley Waxman and Christine Holland



Shirley

Dear Docents,

The beginning of a new docent year is an exciting time for all of us. We have new exhibitions, new teams, and are ready for new experiences as we continue to share the joy of art with our visitors. For many of us, the start of a new year also means time to be evaluated on our tours! We can take immense pride in our peer evaluation process. The goal is to assure that our tours are factually correct, fresh, well balanced, interesting and object oriented. We all get anxious being evaluated; this is normal, and we



Christine

all understand the feeling. (Evaluators are evaluated too!)

Please remember an evaluation should be considered not only as an assessment of performance, but as an opportunity for individual growth and improvement through constructive feedback. This collegial process is an important peer-to-peer method for strengthening our tours and ourselves so that we can offer our visitors the best possible museum experience.

SBMA Docent Bylaws state:

1. Docents giving adult tours or student tours shall be evaluated once every two years.
2. Docents giving Special Exhibition tours shall be evaluated for each exhibition as early as practicable.
3. If it is the Docent’s fault that an evaluation cannot be completed, or if the Docent repeatedly has poor evaluations, then the loss of touring privileges may result. A Docent may then resume Active status once she/he has completed a successful evaluation.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact: Shirley Waxman at: shirleywaxman@gmail.com or Christine Holland at: choll@outlook.com

Shirley and Christine

From our **Membership Chair**
Pattie Firestone



Dear Docents,

Please report your Docent Hours—time spent on SBMA work starting in June 2022. You can report by month or total up several months. Hours can be sent either by email or you can record them in the Hours spreadsheet next to the Attendance Sign-in sheet outside the auditorium at each Docent Council meeting. Please note that you can only miss 3-4 meetings during the service year, so be sure to sign in each time.

Remember, Research Hours include preparation/research for tours; docent meetings; reading art journals, art books, newspapers, films; museum visits, and creating your own art.

Public Hours consist of in-person tours you give. If you shadow a tour or evaluate one, be sure to record those as research hours. ■

Pattie

Pattie.Firestone@gmail.com

From our **Community Speakers Team**



Lori Mohr,
Team Leader

The Community Speakers Program (CSP) began this service year in mid-September at Samarkand with an audience of 50. The long Covid interruption of two years has resulted in a reconfigured CSP team, with me and Joan De-whirst for now. The exciting news is that with the wildly successful *Van Gogh* exhibition last spring, and CSP talks given in conjunction, our venues are thrilled that we are again offering art presentations, with more requests than we can accommodate. ■

For those of you unfamiliar with us, CSP is an outreach program under Adult Teams, offering PowerPoint presentations featuring works from our permanent collection and/or special exhibitions. CSP provides an important link between the Museum and our neighbors, not only for people unable to visit in person, but to retirement communities, such as Casa Dorinda, and Maravilla; private clubs—Little Town Club, Santa Barbara Club, University Club; plus organizations such as VISTAS Lifelong Learning Institute; and public libraries. Following a presentation, most of these groups visit the Museum, either independently or with a private docent-led tour.

If you are interested in learning more, find us on our docent website, or join me for a presentation—better yet, try out a few of your Adult Tour artworks, without any commitment.

For more information about CSP, contact me: communityspeakerssbma@gmail.com.

Lori

From our Provisional Training Chair, Patty Santiago



Dear Docents,

For the first time in three years of public health uncertainty, we welcome twenty new provisionals to the Class of 2022-23. These students bring a wide array of career backgrounds, a diversity of experience, and cover a range of ages. Seven of the 20 are men, a very welcome addition to round out the council. Several provisionals are fluent in a second and even third language.

But, regardless of background, age or experience, they constitute a highly qualified group of energetic students eager to learn and participate in serving the Museum. We have our work cut out for us.

To that end, Barbara Ross and Cindy Anderson, both with backgrounds as educators, join me as we prepare this class to take its place alongside us as touring docents.



Cindy Anderson



Barbara Ross

Patty



Seraphim Albrecht I relocated to Santa Barbara 25 years ago after completing a curatorial internship at the Milwaukee Art Museum and earning a BA in Art History from the University of Wisconsin. After settling here, I spent almost a decade working in art licensing and brand management, then pivoted to join the legal department of a local tech company where I stayed for several years.

I became an at-home mom when my second child was born, and feel very privileged to have had the support and flexibility to do this. I live in downtown SB with my husband, our two children, and our very spoiled dog. When I'm not chasing my kids around, I can be found volunteering at their school, redecorating friends' homes, and enjoying outdoor adventures with my family. I am excited to be a part of the provisional class and look forward to serving the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

No Image available

Mimi Baer My husband and I moved to Santa Barbara in 2020 after more than 50 years in L.A. I spent my career in education, working as a classroom teacher, learning specialist, principal, researcher, and host of a radio program on education, culminating in 20 years as Executive Director of the California Association of Independent Schools. Following my retirement, I became a trained mediator providing mediation services to non-profit entities. I was a school docent at the Getty Villa for six years, served on several non-profit boards of trustees and as ombudsman to the

PLATO Society of Los Angeles. Since moving to Santa Barbara, I have joined the Women's Board of the SBMA and volunteer at the Botanic Garden.



Mary Benedict Home for me is in the Santa Ynez Valley, truly one of the most beautiful places on earth, where I live with my canine companions. I was born and raised in Southern California and attended college in SB and Berkeley. As a young woman, I moved to the Pacific Northwest to raise my family. During my Seattle life, I worked in parish education and also for the Seattle Midwifery School as a program administrator and childbirth educator, completing my master's degree at Seattle University during that time. In 2000, I returned to L.A., where I taught at Marymount High School for 15 years before retiring.

I am as active as ever, helping to raise my grandchildren and pursuing my interests, which include knitting, gardening, quilting and other craft activities. And, of course, visiting museums whenever I get the chance. I'm excited about being in the provisional training program and becoming a docent for SBMA.



Josephine Carrillo I am a retired primary school teacher from San Dimas in L.A. County. I relocated to Santa Barbara in the fall of 2020 and have been exploring meaningful ways to serve the community. SBMA's Docent Program resonates with my life-long interest in the arts and my educational preparation and experience. I have a B.A. in Mexican-American Studies, an M.A. in Education, and an M.A. in Pastoral Theology. Also, I have participated in three National Summer Teacher Institutes: the National Gallery of Art's *Storytelling and the Visual Arts* (2018); The National Endowment for the Humanities' *Gullah Voices—Traditions and Transformation* (2019); and The National Gallery of Art's *Art and Thinking* (2020).

My son, Scoli Acosta, is a recognized visual artist. He has exhibited at the LA County Museum of Art, the Hammer Museum, and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. We are both excited about my becoming a docent and serving the Santa Barbara community.



Judith Dewey I moved to Santa Barbara in 2020 with my husband after living 30+ years in L.A. After earning an MFA in Theatre Arts from Cornell University, I acted and sang on stage and television in NYC before moving to L.A., where I stepped out from under the lights and assumed the role of mother to raise our two children—now both working artists. My daughter, Sam, is a costume/key-textile artist and son, Oliver, a printer at Gemini G.E.L. in Los Angeles.

Never wandering far from my creative spirit, I have dabbled in art myself, taking classes at the Brentwood Art Center and have also ventured into writing. Adopting the pseudonym Olivia Samms, I have written screenplays, teleplays and published two Young Adult novels, SKETCHY and SNITCH. I now look forward to taking on this new role as a provisional at SBMA.



Greg Farrington I graduated from UCSB in 1972 with a degree in Fine Arts. Three years later I received an MFA from the University of Colorado and taught at Metro State College in Denver. From there I moved to NYC to pursue my career as an artist. My work was shown in two galleries while I worked in a Soho restaurant, along with other myriad jobs, before moving back to California for a fresh start. I eventually started a graphic design firm in L.A. with my sister-in-law, a partnership that lasted for 25 years. (continued)

Greg Farrington (continued)

After retiring in 2009, my wife and I moved back to Santa Barbara where we continue to participate in the arts community. Paula is involved in the SBMA Women's Board, and I, returning to my early love of art, was inspired to become a docent. Given my background as an artist and an educator, I am look forward to coming full circle in my future role as a docent.



Kristin Frascella I am a local here in Santa Barbara—a teacher, an artist, and a mom. I'm also a globetrotter, having lived in Italy, India, New York, and Chicago, to name a few, working mainly in the arena of nonprofit management and education. Long since settled, I currently teach in the business division at Santa Barbara City College, lead creativity classes & events, and teach an occasional yoga class, all the while raising my two boys with my husband.

For many years I have wanted to get involved with the SBMA. Participating in the docent training program fits in with the balance I seek to maintain between my business and creative sides. I can't wait to connect with the class, the art, and the community through this experience.



Ursula Ginder Originally from Germany, I moved to Santa Barbara with my husband 48 years ago to start a family and begin a career. When my children were very young, I began taking classes in history and art history at SB City College, one at a time. By the time the children were in elementary school in the mid-1980s, I had joined the SBMA docent program. These were exciting years. I enjoyed not only adult tours but especially the preparation for and presentations at schools and retirement communities.

Eventually, I entered the UCSB art history program and graduated with an advanced degree in 2011. I am very much looking forward to re-joining the SBMA community and being part of a new docent class.



Laini Melnic I'm a British/ American dual national, the mother of two adult children, the grandmother of an adorable five-month-old granddaughter, and an appellate criminal defense attorney. I've lived in Santa Barbara since 1994 and my children grew up here.

I've had no formal art education since high school but I'm an avid museum goer with a particular interest in twentieth century and contemporary art, tribal/ indigenous art, and photography. I'm looking forward to joining the docent training and deepening and broadening my knowledge alongside other art enthusiasts.



Judith Messick I have lived In Santa Barbara since 1964. Most of my work history has been at UCSB in the Education Abroad Program, the English Department, and the Writing Program. After spending two years in Norway, a colleague and I translated six Norwegian novels into English. My PhD is in English Literature, and my art experience is with crafts rather than Fine Art. (continued)

Judith Messick (continued)

Over the years I have taken numerous adult education courses in pottery, weaving, and quilting, my current focus of creative activity. In our docent training program, I look forward to learning more about the Museum's permanent collection, and as a touring docent, I look forward to sharing that knowledge with visitors.



Belle Michael My husband and I recently moved to Santa Barbara from Oak Park in Ventura County as empty nesters. Our country of origin is Israel, from which we emigrated 16 years ago to raise our children in a peaceful multicultural environment. I am a Rabbi in the Jewish faith and recently received my Doctorate in Hebrew Letters (DHL), asking the question: "Did Biblical Literature Protect the Biblical Women and How So?" I teach about Judaism, The Jewish Bible, and Women's studies in the Ancient Near East civilizations.

I like to learn new things and meet people, hike, dance, walk on the beach, cook, and entertain. I am looking forward to new horizons in my art education and to meeting my fellow provisionals with whom I will be touring our SBMA visitors.



Manuel Rangel I was born and raised in Los Angeles. My undergraduate degree was from Immaculate Heart College in Hollywood. Later I earned a teaching credential from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena. In my younger years, I travelled extensively and later taught with the LAUSD from 1986 until 2011.

About five years ago my wife and I moved to Goleta. It was during an undergraduate art class that I originally became interested in art. The class centered primarily on the Pre-Columbian art of Africa, the Americas, and the Pacific Islands. My interest grew when I traveled to some of those places after college and saw the art I had studied. I look forward to learning more to broaden my horizons.



Lawrence Rehr My Wife Deborah and I Moved to SB in July 2022 from Weston, Connecticut. I recently retired from a 40-year career as a pilot with the USAF, Northwest Airlines, and Delta, flying widebody aircraft throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa, and some exotic locations. I also spent 25+ years as a volunteer firefighter in Weston, CT.

We have two grown children living in the L.A. area. Santa Barbara isn't new to me—I lived in Isla Vista from 1978-1980 while attending UCSB. Although my major at Union College, NY and UCSB was science based, I took Art History electives and spent one semester in Florence Italy, studying Renaissance art and architecture.

Throughout my aviation career, I have been fortunate to visit countless art museums throughout the world. I look forward to furthering my understanding and appreciation of art, sharing this knowledge with others, and meeting the community of like-minded Santa Barbarans, museum staff, and fellow docents.



Ruben Rivera I was born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico, where I initially went to law school, later attending law schools at the University of Arizona in Tucson, as well as Lewis and Clark in Portland, Oregon. My legal career began in working with non-profit organizations in both cities. I continue to work with the immigrant community in private practice in Ventura.

The Docent Program gives me the opportunity to more fully explore my passion for art and history. In particular, I am interested in learning about the museum's permanent collection—the Latin American holdings are of special interest, as that art ties in with my work and my love of art history. I look forward to meeting new friends, having new conversations, and sharing new knowledge with the Santa Barbara community when I am a docent.



Elizabeth Russell I recently moved with my husband to Santa Barbara from L.A., and I am so excited to join the provisional docent class! I have spent the last twenty years working in art education in a variety of capacities. Currently, I am teaching art history and visual culture to community college students, and previously worked in adult education at the Museum of Contemporary Art in L.A.

One of my educational values includes the belief that *art is for everyone* and that an arts education is an essential tool for understanding a multiplicity of viewpoints. I look forward to learning more about the incredible permanent collection at SBMA and contributing to the thriving arts community in Santa Barbara.



Mike Sandler I am that rare individual—a California native over 60. I was born in Hollywood and grew up a few blocks from MGM Studios. My interest in art goes back to my teen years when I'd spend many hours in front of my favorite art at the Metropolitan in New York. After earning my bachelor's degree in Psychology and an MBA from CSU Northridge, I did additional coursework at UCLA and became a CPA. After six years I went on to become VP of Finance for a software company until retiring.

My wife passed away in 2019. Our daughter is a PhD student at UCLA in Cinema Studies. Last year I remarried to a woman I had been friends with for 40 years.

Art has always been part of my life, and I have visited museums here and in throughout Europe. Eight years ago I bought my first Old Masters painting from Sotheby's—an early 18th century Baroque painting of Michael the Archangel. I began collecting. It was then that I decided I should learn more about art history, having taken classes at the community college.

No Image

Laezer Schlomkowitz I am a theatre actor and director and have worked here, in LA, New York, Boston, and spent a year in Scotland on a Fulbright Fellowship. I founded and performed in several improv companies that toured the East and West Coasts. Much of my career has been directing plays with young people, in schools, and independently

(continued)

I have adapted many stories for the stage. Recently I have spent my days writing short stories. Several have been published and I'm looking for representation for a novel and novella. But writing is a lonely occupation and I'm looking forward to joining the provisional class.



Dana Staub As a great believer in the power of creativity, I look forward to being a provisional and getting to know the SBMA community. Two years ago my husband and I, with our Old English Sheepdog, Winnie, moved to SB after raising our two daughters in L.A.. It's wonderful to be back.

I did my undergraduate studies at UCSB. Hiking, reading, and learning about art are a few of my passions. As a relational psychoanalyst/psychotherapist, I have worked with many artists as well as seen how the use of art in many forms can be useful in understanding one's deeper internal processes. I am currently seeing that in my work with young adults. Art gives us something beyond ourselves, a kind of hope, which has been especially relevant during these last few years. As a docent I hope to bestow some of that hope through a shared love of art.



Rachel Stengle In 2005, I graduated from UCSB with a BA in Asian Studies and a minor in Art History. After college I lived and worked in Taipei, Taiwan, and was thrilled to watch years of academic learning become three dimensional as I immersed myself in Chinese art and culture. Starting in 2011, I acted as an educator/liaison between docents and visitors at the Museum of Art and History in Los Gatos, California. It was a joy to support our visitors by facilitating their meaningful connections with our exhibits.

My husband and I currently live in Carpinteria. I'm a stay-at-home parent with a four and seven-year-old. On any given day, you are likely to find me caring for our avocado trees, hiking the Franklin Trail, on the water in an outrigger canoe, or reminding my children to please put their shoes away. I am delighted to meet my fellow provisional docents and learn more about engaging the public with art.



David Stocker I was born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. After serving for 40 years as a Presbyterian pastor, I recently retired and moved to SB to enjoy a new season of life with my two grandchildren. It has been my privilege to serve churches in Napa, Honolulu, Charlotte and Washington, D.C.

I have been happily married to Monica for 35 years. She has a private counseling practice directly across the street from Santa Barbara Museum of Art. We have three adult children.

I love learning about and discussing works of art, periods of history and various cultures. Besides college classes, much of my art education comes from docent tours in museums in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Cairo, Leningrad and Rome.

I enjoy people and serving our community and look forward to a rich experience serving as a docent.

The Mural

By Josie Martin



Twenty years before *Van Gogh* came to Santa Barbara causing a great stir, there came the David Alfaro Siqueiros mural, *Portrait of Present Day Mexico*. It was 2001, and my provisional class was more excited at its unveiling than had it been a Van Gogh! I had just moved here from L.A., and so had the mural. The mural's move was more complicated.

Imagine the sight of it—the 51,000-pound wall perched atop a specially equipped 28 foot-long flatbed truck, lumbering northbound up the 101 freeway. Hundreds of locals lined State Street to witness the event as a crane lifted the mural off the ground, gently swinging it up and over streetlights and treetops to drop it into its own protected gallery

outside the State Street entrance.

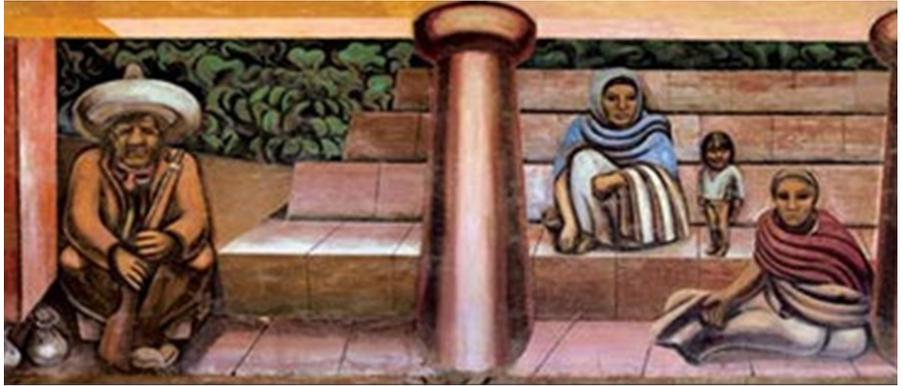


While the mural itself had been gifted by anonymous donors in Pacific Palisades, the museum raised funds to cover the million dollar price tag that came with it—the cost of having it prepared by conservators so that it would remain intact, transported, and re-installed. It is not a fresco, we were told repeatedly. Frescoes mix color in the plaster before it's applied to a wall; here the images are painted directly on the building's surface—the industrial paints Siqueiros used would not adhere to a wet surface—which made the task of moving it all the more challenging. Some conservators warned there was great risk that the entire image could simply slide off when they extracted the wall from its base in the private garden of the Palisades home. Careful formulations of coatings that would dissolve without a trace had to be concocted to stabilize the mural's surface, a steel substructure added, and all four walls—one main wall, 32 feet long; two 81/2-foot side walls and a short front wall—removed as a unit and crated. The entire process had taken two years.

This acquisition was a very big deal for a regional museum, an important addition to our nationally recognized Latin American collection. I recall my mentor, the amazing Faith Henkin, and how exhilarated she felt that SBMA had landed the sole* intact Siqueiros mural in the United States. What a coup! Diana DuPont, the curator, had every right to be proud.

In preparing for my summer tours this month, I realized that I hadn't toured this favorite for a long time. Faith declared the mural's message nothing short of "a shout at the public," about corruption, capitalism, and communism. The symbols are unmistakable: the largest panel of the mural shows onetime Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles, masked and armed with a rifle, hunkered down amid bags of money, across

from which on a short wall is a portrait of U.S. banker J.P. Morgan. Around them are images of impoverished peasants and martyred workers. Such powerful political narration overtakes the aesthetic elements that Siqueiros commanded, such as the polyangular perspective, the flattened images for greater effect. How he used colors of the earth and the jungle, the rounded human forms and the columns—note the rhythmic lines of rebozos. All of this is done with industrial paints.



There are so many fascinating stories about our unique *Portrait* and how David Alfredo Siqueiros came to paint it here while in exile from Mexico. There are only hints of who the last generous owners were—Charlie Chaplin, Marlene Dietrich, and Charles Laughton bought Siqueiros’ art when film-maker Dudley Murphy, (his real name!) let Siqueiros show his easel paintings in his Palisades home in the 1930s. In gratitude, Siqueiros produced the garden wall mural. Or perhaps it was the largess of Bloomingdale heirs, who also made their home in the Palisades at the time.

This 20th anniversary of our fabulous acquisition leaves me hoping that our *Portrait of Present Day Mexico* will be toured often now that we are back in full touring swing.

It really is a treasure of our permanent collection. ■

Josie Martin’s memoir, *Tell No One your Name*, recounts her childhood during the Holocaust.

Marshal Brown October 2, — January 7

Submitted by Ricki Morse



Born in New Jersey in 1973, Marshall Brown developed his practice as a licensed architect/artist in Chicago before recently joining the Princeton Univ. faculty as Associate Professor of Architecture. Our exhibition, “The Architecture of Collage, Marshall Brown,” October 2, 2022 to January 7, 2023, is his first solo museum show, curated by our Contemporary Curator, James Glisson, and accompanied by a 124 page catalog of essays and exhibition images.



Marshall Brown in his studio with *Map of Berlin, ca. 1800-1690*. Collage on gessoed board. From the SBMA exhibition, *The Architecture of Collage: Marshall Brown*

The Last Page



Class of 2023



Docents-in-training

Photos by Patty Santiago

Lori Mohr, Editor , 2009—

Loriwindsormohr@gmail.com

