

DOCENT DATES

June 2 4 PM—6 PM
Docent Service Recognition
and Provisional Graduation

July 1
Preference Sheets Due

SUMMER BREAK

Note: While we have no docent lectures during the summer, our service year runs through October 1st. That means touring is ongoing, so do continue to track both your public/tour hours and all time spent on research.

Pattie Firestone
Membership Chair



Ilana Savdie, born 1986, Columbian. *Lágrimas y mocos* (exploiting a suitable host), 2021. Oil, acrylic, and bees-wax on canvas stretched on canvas.

Museum purchase with funds provided by the Luria/Budgor Family Foundation and The Museum Contemporaries.

From the upcoming exhibition, "Inside/Outside" in the new Contemporary Gallery, on view June 11, 2023—Feb 18, 2024

Submitted by Ricki Morse

Dear Docents.

We have shared a very special year together and I thank each one of you for making it such an unforgettable experience for me. A special thank you to my Vice President, Teda Pilcher for her support and encouragement, quietly and efficiently taking on several of my duties as President when I was unable to do so. I am pleased to pass the gavel to Teda, who will bring her full energy and inspirational leadership to our extraordinary organization.

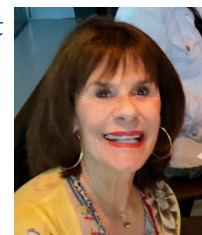
I am grateful to the dedicated and committed Docent Board, members who took their responsibilities seriously and executed their roles thoroughly. My sincere thanks for your guidance and support.

To the Education Department—Patsy, Patty, and Molly, Tatiana—four women who dedicate so much time, energy, and effort keeping our Docent Council running smoothly, from setting up enriching lectures to taking on complicated tour scheduling. Thank you for your leadership and compassionate support this year.

It has been my honor to serve as your President.

Have a wonderful summer.

Karen.



Karen Howsam
Docent Council
President

From our **Vice President**

Teda Pilcher



What a busy, productive year we've had with a full plate of exhibits and events. The caliber of our tours remains outstanding thanks to all your hard work and devotion to the high standards of our Council. I had the opportunity to participate in evaluations, a good reminder of the highly professional and supportive character of our process.

Once again, student tours were exceptional, a true contribution to the community and the core of our mission—teaching visual literacy to students of the Santa Barbara School District. We should all feel proud.

This year's class of provisional docents is a strong, delightful, and committed group that will no doubt strengthen our organization as they take their places touring with us. And we have another strong Docent Council Board for next year with several transitions of officers. I personally thank those members who are stepping down for their hard work, dedication and team work as we welcome our new officers into their roles. This is a special kind of commitment of time and energy beyond and in addition to touring, no small effort with meetings and problem-solving throughout the service year.

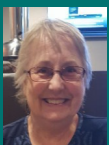
In addition to new board members, we have several docents who are changing status from Active to Sustaining. We remain grateful for their long-time contributions and look forward to their continued presence in a new capacity, as they are welcome at all docent events, including lectures, should they choose.

In keeping with our tradition of group field trips twice during the service year, we visited the USC Pacific Asian Museum and Art Center in LA, as well as the Chrisman California Island Center in Carpinteria. Both day trips were a great opportunity for all of us to explore beyond the Museum walls. Our adventure in San Francisco was an apt way to end the year as we took on the town in a sampling of the fabulous museums the city has to offer, to say nothing of enjoying the food and each other's company.

The Docent Council Book Club was resurrected this year and we look forward to its continuation. From travel to reading, we docents have found wonderful ways beyond touring to share learning about all aspects of art with like-minded souls. Can you think of any other volunteer organization that has such perks?

My sincere gratitude to all of you who have worked with me to make our Docent Council the dynamic, committed, and talented group of which we are all proud to be a part.

Teda



Book Club News

The next meeting will be July 24 at 10:30 in the FRC. We will be selecting our book in early June. An email was sent to those of you who have already joined the group, listing titles under consideration. If you have a book you would like to be considered, please email it to me no later than June 5. If you haven't joined our group and would like to, just send me an email (gmstichler@aol.com). Happy reading! *Gail Stichler*

From **Student Teams Co-chairs**
Nicola Ghersen and Irene Stone



Nicola Ghersen

Student teams have had a full schedule of tours this year, numbering about **2500 students**, plus teachers and chaperones. We want to thank our team leaders—Pattie Firestone, Denise Klassen, Jeff Vitucci, Nicola Ghersen, and Loree Gold—for providing consistently professional leadership to our touring teams. We also thank both Molly Kemper as the new Manager of School Programs and Patty Santiago as Coordinator of Docent Programs for their positive communication and efforts on our be-



Irene Stone

half. It really is a group effort, in front of and behind the scenes.

We especially want to thank all the student touring docents for the commitment, enthusiasm, and first-class teamwork they've shown during this, our first regular student touring year in about three pandemic-laden years. They have shown great flexibility with the changes in protocols for touring, in working around closed galleries, all the while welcoming provisionals, offering support and encouragement as they observed our tours and who, in time, presented works on their own with supervision. This class has had more varied experiences in touring students, more exposure to actual tours. And with that solid hands-on experience, they will be ready to hit the ground running next fall as New Active Docents. The training year really is the hardest. The rest is all about honing your skills and enjoying our shared love of art with visitors.

With sincere gratitude, *Nicola and Irene*

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



Denise Klassen

Well, here we are in May Gray Land with June Gloom around the corner. Perhaps this translates to more visitors as outdoor activities lose their appeal?

A big thank must be given to those of you who have been so flexible and so willing to chip in and sub for your fellow docents. There is a great effort put into creating teams and tour dates which can accommodate everyone's schedules—but as we know—stuff happens! This

quarter has been a doozy to say the least, but as of this date all adult tours have been covered. That speaks volumes about the camaraderie of our Council.

The summer tour calendars have been sent to team leaders for completion and the Preference Sheets for next year's tours should be coming out soon. Be on the lookout and please complete and return them as soon as you can. Working out these assignments is a long process we carry out over the summer, so the sooner we have your preferences, the sooner we can get to work giving our best effort to accommodate you.



Susan Lowe

Thanks again to all and happy touring! *Susan & Denise*

From our **Provisional Chair &
Coordinator of Docent Programs**
Patty Santiago



This past Tuesday and Wednesday the provisional class members were evaluated on their 45 minute *Highlights* tours. It was a very exciting and rewarding two days for Cindy, Barbara and me as these new docents demonstrated all they had learned by successfully presenting their tours to teams of evaluators. As we all know, presenting your first *Highlights* tour is not easy. These provisionals are to be commended for their hard work and dedication. A big shout of thanks goes to our Evaluations teams, docents who took the time to perform peer-evaluations and offer specific feedback verbally and in writing for this final milestone. And, of course, as big note of gratitude to all the mentors who worked with the class as docents-in-training.

On Friday, June 2nd we will be celebrate as a Council at the Graduation and Service Recognition Ceremony as we officially welcome fifteen New Active Docents to our community. They will begin touring students on June 13th and adults on July 1st. Congratulations!

From Patty as the Coordinator of Docent Programs:

Four new exhibitions will be opening in June:

1. **“Inside/Outside”**

June 11, 2023-February 18, 2024

In the Contemporary gallery replacing Keinholz.

2. **“WARES!” Extraordinary Ceramics and the Ordinary Home”**

June 18-September 17, 2023

In Von Emmons and Romberg galleries

3. **“The Private Universe of James Castle”**

June 25-September 17, 2023

McCormick Gallery

4. **“Thinking and Seeing Beyond”**

June 21-September 17, 2023

Davidson Gallery

Preference Sheets will be emailed to everyone by June 1st. Please remember that the student touring schedule has been reconfigured. I will have hard copies of the Preference Sheets available at the Graduation/ Recognition ceremony. You can also turn them in that evening. In addition, hard copies of Preference Sheets will be available at the Park entrance Visitors’ Services desk, and you can hand them in there as well anytime during June. **Please note the deadline to turn them in is July 1st.**

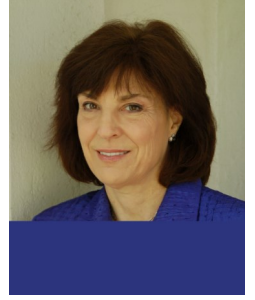
Patty

From our Evaluations Co-chairs

Shirley Waxman and Christine Holland



As we approach the summer touring months, the Evaluations Chairs are pleased to reflect on the continued strength and talent of our touring docents as revealed in the very fine performances reflected in the many evaluations that have been completed this year. It's not easy being evaluated, but one of the most important qualities any docent can bring to the docent role is the willingness to learn, to be in a "student" role that we all sign on for, the ongoing pursuit of knowledge about art, and the skill of



translating that knowledge into quality, enjoyable tours for our visitors.

It is with this goal in mind that we thank all evaluators and all touring docents for keeping up the excellent work of our Docent council.

We are delighted that we will be welcoming graduating Provisional Docents at the Docent Recognition and Celebration Ceremony as they take that step as regular touring docents.

We congratulate you for a successful training year!

Christine and Shirley

Welcome to the Club!

Submitted by Cindy Anderson



On May 10, the Docent Class of 2020 welcomed the soon-to-be New Active Docents with a long-held tradition in which new docents are welcomed by the preceding class, in this case 2020—the last before the pandemic-induced pause in provisional training.

Hosted at my home in Santa Barbara, twenty-eight docents shared a beautiful afternoon of sunshine and warm fellowship. Provisional Chair Patty Santiago and frequent guest speaker Ralph Wilson also attended.

Cindy Anderson

From our **Membership Chair**
Pattie Firestone



Please send me your Touring Hours and your Research Hours for this service year, 2022-2023 between Oct. 1 - Sept. 30. Your summer tours and research time count for this year. Keep track of your hours over the summer.

Thanks for all your Tours and all your Research to make the SBMA museum such a great place to visit and work.

Please contact Pattie.Firestone@gmail.com Thanks, *Pattie*

From our **Community Speakers Chair**
Lori Mohr



Joan and I had a solid run this year as a two-person team representing the Museum at venues all over town. In addition to outside talks, it was my great pleasure giving two lectures to the provisional class this year. How exciting to have them as docents among us!

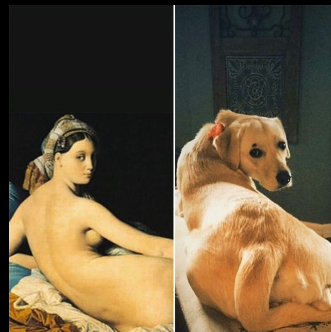
Joan has been an inspiration to me with her intractable enthusiasm and absolute joy in giving talks. I will miss her as she wraps up her decade of active touring and speaking, her grand finale an homage to our beautiful state in "Oh! California" presented at Elwood Shores in May.

CSP is on the Preference Sheets! If you're interested in learning more about our program, email me at communityspeakerssb@gmail.com or Loriwindsormohr@gmail.com. See you next fall with more CSP news and another ten issues of *La Muse!* *Lori*

Fun From Pma:

Getty Artworks Re-created by Geniuses the World Over . Get creative with items on hand with the Getty Museum Challenge to reenact your favorite art from home . [Art & Architecture](#) 2020

[The Getty Museum](#) in LA challenged art fans to post photos of themselves recreating their favorite works of art from the safety of their homes. People responded with a lot of enthusiasm and flooded social media with their unique artistic interpretations. Click on the link to see the best examples!



<https://www.getty.edu/news/getty-artworks-recreated-with-household-items-by-creative-geniuses-the-world-over/>

From Our **Research Chair**

Sarajum Quazi



Greetings, everyone!

I am delighted to share with you three remarkable papers authored by our esteemed docents: Susan Northrop's *Moche Mask*, Marcos Christodoulous's "*Hermes*," and Pattie Firestone's *Portrait Head of a Bearded Man*. I encourage you all to dive into these papers and relish the knowledge they offer.

Being a research chair has been an absolute honor and pleasure. Over the past four years, I have gained invaluable insights while reviewing widely varied papers. Now, I am eager to embark on a journey of independent learning and dedicate myself to leading informative tours. It fills me with great excitement to pass the torch to our expert docent, Barbara Ross, who will continue to uphold this noble position. From now on, please reach out to her for any research material you wish to publish.

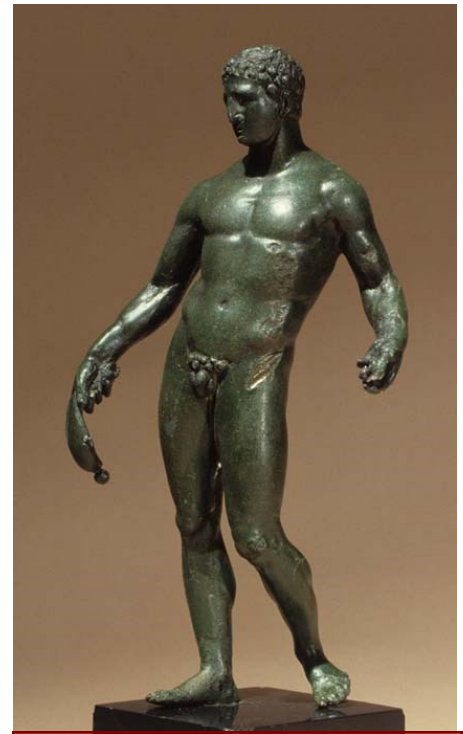
I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering support.

Warm regards, *Sarajum Quazi*



Unknown, Pre-Columbian
Moche Mask, 2nd c. CE - 8th c. CE, Pre-Columbian, Moche, copper alloy, bone, muscovite, 9 x 6 1/2 in. SBMA, Gift of Wright S. Ludington

<https://docentssbma.org/unknown-pre-columbian-inca-mask/>



Unknown, Roman
Hermes, 1st c. BCE, late - early 1st c. CE, bronze, 6 1/2 x 3 1/4 in. SBMA, Gift of Wright S. Ludington

<https://docentssbma.org/unknown-roman-hermes/>

Unknown, Roman
Portrait Head of a Bearded Man (R), 3rd c. CE, mid, bronze, 11 1/2 x 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 in. SBMA, Gift of Wright S. Ludington

<https://docentssbma.org/unknown-roman-portrait-head-of-a-bearded-man/>



Pre-lecture Feast Hosted by the Spring *Highlights* Team

Photographed and submitted by Pma



"These are photos of our Spring *Highlights* touring team's efforts to feed the docents prior to our meeting/lecture. We made a Maypole out of our vase of flowers with satin streamers, running over to miniature easels and 3 x 3 canvases painted to replicate various works of art that would be in a *Highlights* tour. Our food was geared towards Spring, filled with flowers and color and it was quite a joyful spread."

Pma

Our Latin American Collection Gains a Contemporary Chicano Artist

by Ricki Morse



Narcisco Martinez's life and art are intricately interwoven with that of the 21st century migrant worker in California, creating today's heroes among new generations of Mexican-Americans.

Born in 1977 into poverty in a village near Oaxaca, Narcisco walked barefoot to school, where he was a poor student but soon became an aspiring artist, making sketches of his parents and siblings and setting his life's direction.

In 1997 he followed a much older brother to Long Beach, enrolled in English classes, earned his G.E.D. to complete high school, then earned his AA degree from L.A. City College when he was 32, supporting his education by working odd jobs. Determined to fund his art studies, he joined the migrant asparagus pickers, backbreaking nighttime work, and then joined his brother in Washington State for apple picking season. Ultimately he earned his MFA from Cal State Long Beach in 2018, concurrently experiencing the life of the migrant agricultural worker—the focus of his art.



Narcisco Martinez, at his March 2023 exhibition opening, Orange County Museum of Art



Narcisco Martinez, *Farm Fresh*, 2018, a tableau on produce boxes, photographs, ink, charcoal, goldleaf. The heroic central figure in protective gear appears as a defending warrior, guarding the camaraderie of the gathered field workers.

The artist began using produce boxes as his canvas for mixed media work, imaging farm workers and agricultural landscapes, thus incorporating the logos of corporate agriculture with the workers who produced the product. His first exhibition was mounted in 2018 by the Long Beach Museum of Art and included Narcisco's photographs, box labels and charcoal drawings. The exhibition validated his years of work, his message reaching viewers and resonating in the community, celebrating the migrant worker as hero.



Narcisco Martinez, *Fruit Catcher I, II, III, IV*, 2021-22, Ink, charcoal and gold leaf on produce cardboard – a dramatic gallery display at the Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach.

Narcisco received several art awards and artist residencies from local colleges, an outcome of the exhibition, which surprised the artist. His focus had always been opening American eyes to the migrants' contributions to their lives and now found he needn't go back to the apple orchards to support himself.

From local museums, Narcisco's work has rapidly spread across the country, appearing in many group exhibitions, collected by major museums, among them the Hammer in Los Angeles and, happily, our own museum.

Narcisco's *Self Portrait* will be hung in *Inside/Outside*, opening next month, June 11th, in the Contemporary Gallery.



Narcisco Martinez, *Legal Tender*, 2022, gouache, ink, charcoal and goldleaf collage on produce boxes, 92.5 x 278 in., MOLAA. An enormous dollar bill, issued by an imaginary country that values and celebrates its working class. The goldleaf commemorates the Mayan/Aztec gold (and culture) stolen by Spanish invaders.

The portrait of himself tending fruit midst the advertisements of industrial agriculture captures the essence of the artist's work, placing himself "inside" as the worker, and expanding the metaphor of the exhibition's title. The artist is inside but also outside, a part but separate, a creator of the work but not the fruit. ■

Narcisco Martinez, *Self Portrait, En La Cherry* (with Strawberry Fields Forever in the Background), 2020 Ink, charcoal, gouache and acrylic matte gel on produce cardboard boxes Museum purchase with funds provided by The Basil Alkazzi Acquisition Fund, SBMA



Inside James Castle's World

Submitted by Shirley Waxman



Photos from Shirley & Kathryn Zupsic's May 2023 visit in Idaho (KZ was our Zoom speaker from the Fine Arts Museum in SF). For added context, review Ricki's article on James Castle in the May 2023 issue of *La Muse*.



From the website: The James Castle House is a historic site and museum serving as a testimony to the legacy of self-taught artist . As stewards of this legacy, the James Castle House is responsible for managing Castle's historic living and working spaces, art and artifact collections and offering public opportunities to engage with the site.

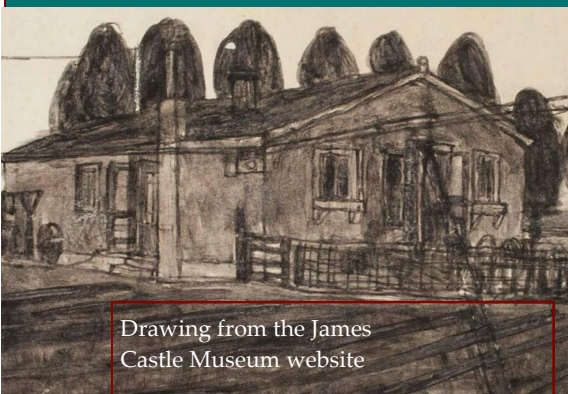


Shirley at James Castle's house.

Left: Recall from Ricki's article last month that the artist hid his work in the walls of the house. This was found in the wall. Layers and layers of wallpaper and newspaper used for insulation found. Some of his figures look similar to this. Can you see the figure? Look for the square head.

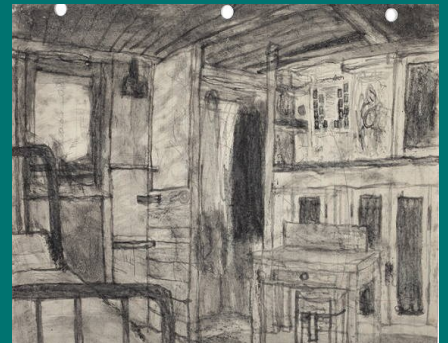


Above: Shirley & Kathryn Zupsic at the Boise Art Museum, May 2023



Drawing from the James Castle Museum website

Drawing from the James Castle Museum website



Lori Mohr, Editor, 2009—

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