



winter | spring 2012

# THE QUARTERLY

THE JAMES RENWICK ALLIANCE



**Cliff Lee**

Dragon with Ruby Eyes  
on the Cloud Pedestal, 2012

**JAMES RENWICK  
ALLIANCE QUARTERLY****EDITOR**

Clemmer Montague

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Johanna Thompson

**ART DIRECTOR**

Donna Sicklesmith-Anderson

**PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR**

Miriam Rosenthal

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Miriam Rosenthal

**WRITERS**

Johanna Thompson, Robert Buchanan, Barbara Wolanin, Mallory Lawson

**COPY EDITORS**

Johanna Thompson, Elmerina Parkman, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Kathrin V. Halpern

James Renwick Alliance  
4405 East West Highway, Suite 510  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Phone 301 907-3888 / Fax 301 907-3855

*The Quarterly* is published three times a year by the James Renwick Alliance, an independent national non-profit organization, created to celebrate the achievements of America's craft artists and to foster scholarship, education, and public appreciation of craft art. Founded in 1982, the Alliance helps support the nation's showcase of contemporary American craft, the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C. The opinions expressed therein are not those of the James Renwick Alliance, its board of directors or the Smithsonian American Art Museum Renwick Gallery and its staff. *The Quarterly* is published for members of the James Renwick Alliance and is not for sale.

Disclaimer: The editor assumes full responsibility for all errors in proof-reading and editing of all articles in *The Quarterly*. Errors are not the fault of the James Renwick Alliance, its officers or members nor the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

**JAMES RENWICK  
ALLIANCE OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Clemmer Montague

**VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS**

Gary Stevens

**VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT**

Giselle Huberman

**TREASURER**

J.G. Harrington

**SECRETARY**

Julianna Mahley

**JAMES RENWICK  
ALLIANCE STAFF**

Cicie Sattarnilasskorn  
Administrator  
301 907-3888



New Year's Eve Party debut were the American Crafties Giselle Huberman, Clemmer Montague, Elmerina Parkman, and Sandy Mitchell, singing "Nick and Robyn."

Miriam Rosenthal

## From the president...

Welcome to the year of anniversaries! The Renwick Gallery is celebrating its 40th anniversary, the James Renwick Alliance its 30th and the nation's capital its 100th anniversary of the gift of cherry trees from the Japanese people.

We celebrate the very successful fun(d)raising event on New Year's Eve,

and the \$11,500 we earned went immediately to replenishing the Dale Chihuly Publication Fund. We thank Giselle Huberman as chair of the event and committee members Ben Huberman, Pati Young, Elmerina and Paul Parkman, Norman and Sandy Mitchell, Marilyn Hardis, Bonnie Schwartz, Brigitte Savage, Miriam Rosenthal, Shirley and Randi Jacobs, Tim Tate, Mallory Lawson and David Montague.

Just as the energetic and hard working volunteers contributed to make the New Year's Eve party successful, so is the SCW committee, headed by Gary Stevens, working very hard to make that weekend highly enjoyable and profitable. I would like to recognize and thank both committees for their devotion and gift of time to the Alliance. And I shall start with...

Gary Stevens who has put together a superb group of volunteers. He made it a family affair with his wife Rebecca as auctions chair. Rebecca's concept is to offer a wide range of objects, and, while high-end art by established artists will be available, she also has sought work in a more modest price range. She is assisted by Julianna Mahley, an expert on any matter pertaining to contracts, Brenda Erickson, Elizabeth Ryland Mears, Giselle Huberman, Tim Tate and Judy Weisman who is in charge of the installation for the auctions.

Our "Patron of Patrons Saint" Shirley Jacobs has gone through her Rolodex and again persuaded many people to become Patrons with pledges of well over \$100,000 at the beginning of February. Other volunteers are: Bonnie Schwartz who will surprise us with a really wonderful gala, Gwen Paulson, Elmerina Parkman, Johanna Thompson, Miriam Rosenthal, Barbara Berlin, Sandy Mitchell, Jacqueline Urow, Lois Jecklin, Paul Parkman and Pat Arnold and Jan Maddox who are old hands at the behind the scenes work for the auction.

Lending a hand in the professional area are Fine Art Services for storing and handling of the auction items, Randi Jacobs for mailing services, Ann Gilbert for publicity, and Donna Sicklesmith-Anderson for the design of the post card and invitation. And we cannot forget our backbone: Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, administrator, and her co-worker Kathrin (Kat) V. Halpern, special projects manager.

We express our gratitude for the immeasurable assistance we receive from the Renwick Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum staffs, particularly Robyn Kennedy, the Chief of the Renwick Gallery and Betsy Broun, The Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, which makes so much of our work possible.

I cannot say thank you enough for all the volunteer efforts. That is what makes us strong. All I can say is: Please buy a ticket to attend one or all of the Spring Craft Weekend events!

*Clemmer Montague*

Clemmer Montague, JRA President

**JRA BOARD MEETINGS\***

Tuesday, April 10 @ 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 7 @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 9 @ 2 p.m.

\*Subject to change



## FLEUR BRESLER IS TRULY ONE-OF-A-KIND SAY THREE ADMIRERS

*Editor's Note:* Fleur Bresler is truly a one-of-a-kind patron, mentor, and supporter of the craft communities not only in the Washington, D.C., area, but nationally. She has generously supported the Lloyd Herman endowment for a curator of American craft for the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery and created an endowment for the current curatorial position—named the Fleur and Charles Bresler Curator of American Craft and Decorative Arts—a title held by Nicholas Bell. Presenters of the award at the Spring Craft Weekend Gala will address the overall wood art, James Renwick Alliance and Smithsonian American Art Museum communities. Meantime, leaders of the VisArts Center, Rockville, and The Center for Art in Wood, formerly The Wood Turning Center, in Philadelphia, acknowledge her importance to these two organizations.

"Fleur Bresler is a rare combination of collector, student, patron and advocate supreme for the arts. She embraces every opportunity to learn about emerging artists and their work, and her loyalty and support for those artists she has helped make successful is legendary. Her enthusiasm is infectious and inspiring to everyone who has ever worked with her. She is down to earth and not interested in attracting attention to herself but rather focuses



Fleur Bresler, at home with her wood art collection, is the Alliance's One-of-a-Kind recipient.

Miriam Rosenthal

on the artists and the art that she loves. She understands that the arts have the power to change lives, build bridges between cultures and generations and enrich our community." —Robert Buchanan and Karen Askin, *Board of Directors, VisArts, Rockville, MD*

"Fleur Bresler embodies the saying that 'great things come in small packages.' What a quiet but huge one-of-a-kind force for the arts she is. Over the 21 years that she has participated in the Center for Art in Wood in Philadelphia (formerly The Wood Turning Center), Fleur's passion for wood art has benefited artists and institutions alike.

I first met Fleur when she insisted on paying the artists' full prices at an auction to benefit the Center. This tiny mystery woman, quickly picked out and purchased every item she wanted. Over the years I've learned that Fleur likes first to live with her art, and next she finds it very good foster parents.

Fleur has a real fan club within the world of art made from wood. Her generous support helps organizations pursue their missions and helps place important works of wood with the other studio art media." —Albert LeCoff, *Co-Founder and Executive Director, The Center for Art in Wood, Philadelphia, PA*

### ON THE COVER

Cliff Lee's porcelain *Dragon with Ruby Eyes on the Cloud Pedestal* celebrates the James Renwick Alliance's 30th anniversary, the Year of the Dragon, and is a live auction item.



Holly Lee

### ARTOMATIC RETURNS FROM MAY 18–JUNE 24

Artomatic returns to Crystal City in 2012 for its signature free arts event, to be held in the biggest Artomatic building ever, from May 18–June 24, and the James Renwick Alliance is gearing up to be part of the month-long artists' extravaganza. The Crystal City Business Improvement District announced that Artomatic will take over the Transwestern Presidential Tower, entrance at 2511 S. Clark St. in Crystal City, VA, with a special opening night celebration on May 18. Parking is free.

Artomatic is well-known for transforming empty spaces into vibrant arts communities which celebrate creativity and provide a unique and exciting event for tens of thousands of visitors—all free of charge. Anyone can show art at Artomatic. There is no criteria to participate, and art is selected on a first-come, first serve basis, so it's a great way to discover new art.

JRA's involvement, spearheaded by Mallory Lawson and assisted by Bonnie Schwartz, Giselle Huberman and Pat Arnold, will be three-fold. Bonnie will be in charge of a JRA reception, and Giselle will organize a program on collecting, possibly a panel discussion. Pat is in charge of the JRA craft awards in six areas: ceramics, fiber, glass, metal, wood and mixed media. Volunteers are needed to assist with each committee with various tasks.

Every night of the event, thousands of people visit Artomatic to discover new art, grab a drink, listen to music, go on dates, and mingle with the creative community. More than 100,000 visitors are expected to visit Artomatic this year. Various learning experiences will be offered.

Anyone interested in assisting Mallory and her committee may contact her at [mallorylawsonasid@msn.com](mailto:mallorylawsonasid@msn.com).

GLORIOUS ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATE THE 40TH, 30TH AND 100TH

# Spring Craft Weekend 2012

Glorious Anniversaries! A celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery and the 30th anniversary of the James Renwick Alliance on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Japan's gift of cherry trees to Washington, D.C., is the theme of Spring Craft Weekend, March 23–25. The theme occurs and resurfaces throughout the three days of activities in museum and home exhibitions, curators' discussions, artists' talks, a panel discussion, director and founder's reminiscences and auctions. Here is how the weekend is shaping up...



**ABOVE,** Laurel Lukaszewski, *Velocity*, black stoneware

**RIGHT,** Jon Eric Riis, *Tiger Panel Tapestry*, metallic thread, black fresh water pearls

**BELOW,** Donald Friedlich, *Translucence Series Brooch*, glass, 22k, 18k, 14k gold



## FRIDAY March 23, 2012

### CAUCUS/PATRONS DAY

**1:45 p.m.** Assemble on 17th Street outside the Renwick Gallery

**2 p.m.** Buses depart for the Textile Museum

**2:15 p.m.** Meet artist and curator Jack Lenor Larsen, curator Lee Talbot, and fiber artist Kiyomi Iwata

Welcome and introduction to the exhibition *Sourcing the Collection* by Lee Talbot, curator, Eastern Hemisphere Collections. (Because of the limited size of the museum's galleries, the group will be divided in half for two presentations.)

An overview by Jack Lenor Larsen who invited artists to explore the museum's historically and culturally varied collections and create new artworks inspired from the pieces of their choice. The historical textiles highlight the wide scope of the museum's collections, ranging from rare Pre-Columbian and late Roman weavings to a Japanese kimono and Central Asian ikats. Diverse in background, technique and aesthetic, and at the height of their careers, the invited artists include Olga de Amaral, James Bassler, Polly Barton, Archie Brennan, Lia Cook, Helena Heranmarck, Ayako Nikamoto, Jon Eric Riis, Warren Seelig, Kay Sekimachi, and Ethel Stein.

A discussion by fiber artist Kiyomi Iwata of Richmond, VA, will focus on the importance of textiles in the daily life of the Japanese people and the impact this has had on her work. Kiyomi has a piece of work in the auction.

One bus will depart the Textile Museum for an exciting visit to the rare Caesar Pelli-designed home of Carl and Nancy Gewirz with superb art, including her extensive collection of hippie chic fashion. (Buses switch to visit both collections.) The other bus will go to the home of Rebecca and Gary Stevens, collectors of fiber, ceramics and other wonderful objects. Also at the Stevens' house Mira Nakashima, Harvard-educated daughter of George Nakashima, will discuss how, in an ancient Japanese tradition of working toward perfection, she is following in the path of her father's work. Local ceramist Laurel Lukaszewski, who has installed a field of cherry blossoms on a wall in the Stevens' lower level display area, will describe her conception of the piece and how she works to achieve the floating blossoms effect. A video of other pieces by Laurel will also be shown.

**6 p.m.** Arrival at the Renwick Gallery for a buffet reception and a special anniversary celebratory program. 40th and 30th Anniversary Reminiscences: Lloyd Herman, Director Emeritus Renwick Gallery and JRA 2009 One-of-a-Kind recipient, and Founding Member Elmerina Parkman.

*Arranged by* Barbara Berlin, Sandy Mitchell and Gary Stevens. Shirley Jacobs, Patrons chair.

*Caucus and Patrons only.* Casual attire.

\$125 for Caucus members. Weekend Patrons free.

\$25 tax deductible.



**SATURDAY MORNING March 24, 2012****PANEL DISCUSSION** *Japanese Influence on American Craft***10:30 a.m. – 12 noon**

The Smithsonian American Art Museum Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium (8th & G Street entrance)

Moderator: Halsey North who, with his wife Alice, assists not-for-profit performing arts centers and theaters with raising capital and operating funds, strengthening their boards of directors, and doing long-range planning. Since their visit to Japan in 1986, the Norths have visited many contemporary Japanese ceramic artists and actively collected their work. Their passion for this incredible art form has been the focus of major exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Japan Society in New York. They have produced and coordinated four ceramic tours to Japan since 1989 and have lectured extensively on contemporary Japanese ceramics.

Panelists Jack Lenor Larsen, renowned fiber expert; Donald Friedlich, jeweler; Wendy Maruyama, furniture maker; and Dr. Judith Schwartz, professor, will each highlight one aspect of the Japanese influence on American craft, based either on their work or the work of others in 15 minute presentations, followed by questions from the audience.

*Arranged by Gary Stevens.* This event is selected as an official event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Casual attire. Free and open to the public. (See pages 12–13 for full story.)



**ABOVE,** Wendy Stevens, *La Camisa Purse*, stainless steel

**WE VALUE OUR PATRONS AND VOLUNTEERS!**

Spring Craft Weekend would not be possible without the diligent efforts of many individuals who have worked very hard throughout the past 12 months to create this weekend of Glorious Anniversaries! The James Renwick Alliance and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery deeply appreciate all that has been done.

Every year dedicated supporters of the James Renwick Alliance step forward with generous donations as Patrons of Spring Craft Weekend. Their contributions are a critical component of the JRA's fundraising efforts for the Renwick Gallery. Patrons may attend all SCW events without charge, and their donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The invitation and auction catalogue list all who have participated either as a volunteer or as a patron.

**BELOW,** Wendy Maruyama, *The Blue Scarf*, pear wood, digital ultra chrome print

**SATURDAY EVENING March 24, 2012****GALA RECEPTION, AUCTIONS, AWARD CEREMONY**

Willard InterContinental Hotel,  
1401 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C.

James Renwick Alliance Spring Craft Weekend gala and auctions, featuring work of JRA past Masters of the Medium Lia Cook and Jon Eric Riis, Distinguished Educators Stephen Powell, Wendy Maruyama, Dr. Judith Schwartz and Paulus Berensohn among other artists. One-of-a-Kind Award to Fleur Bresler.

**6 p.m.** Gala evening begins with Patrons early check-in

**6:30 p.m.** Preview reception for Patrons

**7 p.m.** General check-in, cocktail hour and silent auction

**8 p.m.** Dinner, live auction and One-of-a-Kind award ceremony

Presenters: Phil Brown, Wood Art community

Judy Weisman, JRA, Craft and Art communities

Nicholas Bell, Smithsonian American Art Museum

Artful attire. Open to all ticket holders. Tickets for sale at \$295. Patrons are free. \$95 tax deductible. \$10 for valet parking.

*Arranged by Rebecca Stevens:* auction committee chair; Bonnie Schwartz; gala chair; Judy Weisman, exhibition installation; Pat Arnold, Behind the Scenes chair. Martin Gammon, Bonhams auctioneer.

**SUNDAY MORNING March 25, 2012****DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARDS BRUNCH****10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

The St. Regis Hotel

923 16th (and K Street), N.W., Washington, D.C.

James Renwick Alliance Spring Craft Weekend awards brunch, honoring four Distinguished Educators: Paulus Berensohn, mixed media; Stephen Powell, glass; Wendy Maruyama, furniture maker; and Dr. Judith Schwartz, ceramics expert.

Tickets for sale at \$95. Patrons are free. \$35 tax deductible. \$20 for valet parking.

*Arranged by Lois Jecklin and Paul Parkman.*



1.



2.



3.



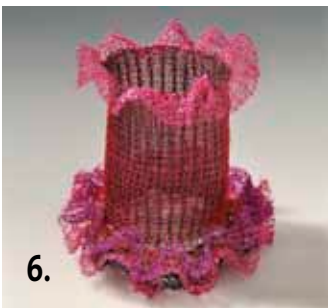
4.

**SCW 2012 LIVE AUCTION**

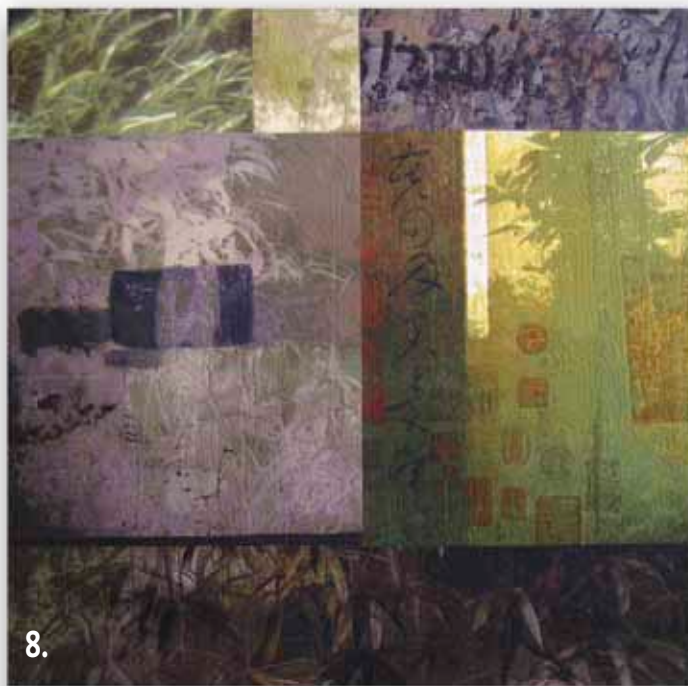
1. Cliff Lee, *Dragon with Ruby Eyes on the Cloud Pedestal*, porcelain (also shown on front cover)
2. George Nakashima, *Amoeba Table*, wood
3. Stephen Powell, *Lurid Sarcastic Leer*, glass
4. Pat Flynn, *Diamond Slice Cuff*, bracelet
5. Lia Cook, *Doll Face VI*, woven image
6. Arline Fisch, *Pink-Purple Ruffle*, knitted metal wire bracelet
7. Mira Nakashima, *Wepman Table*, wood
8. Michael James, *The Concept of Qi*, quilt
9. Karen LaMonte, *Lark Mirror*, cast glass, engraved, mounted on velvet



5.



6.



8.



7.



9.



**LIVE AUCTION:****Three Pieces from the Marilyn L. and John W. Barrett Collection**

**Marilyn and John (Jack) Barrett** were long-time James Renwick Alliance members and collectors of contemporary furniture, ceramics and fiber. Both died within months of each other in April and July 2011. Marilyn was a fabulous, creative organizer and humorous presenter during awards ceremonies over the years, and much loved by all who knew her. (See page 23 for related story.)

Michael Monroe, as a volunteer, is acting on behalf of family members in dispersing the collection. The family has offered the James Renwick Alliance three pieces from the collection to be included in the Spring Craft weekend live auction.

These three pieces represent some of the best traits of each artist: John Cedarquist's playful trompe l'oeil three-dimensional images; Rick Dillingham's unique technique of breaking his pots into shards after their initial firing; and Toshiko Takaezu's spontaneous approach to glazing.

**LEFT,** John Cedarquist, *Deconstructionist Saw Chair*, 1993, Baltic birch plywood, sitka spruce, maple, epoxy resin inlay, aniline dye, Marilyn L. and John W. Barrett Collection, Courtesy of the Barrett Family

**RIGHT,** Toshiko Takaezu, *Makaha Blue*, 1986, Thrown porcelain, glazed, Marilyn L. and John W. Barrett Collection, Courtesy of the Barrett Family

**BELOW,** Rick Dillingham, *Globe*, 1985, Earthenware, fired, fractured, glazed, glided, painted, reconstructed, Marilyn L. and John W. Barrett Collection, Courtesy of the Barrett Family



pete@anythingphoto.net



pete@anythingphoto.net

Pete Duvall

Mike Sasso

## LIVE AUCTION:

# An Intimate Dinner for 16 with Suzanne and Norman Cohn



Photos by Michael Smith

Philanthropists **Suzanne and Norman Cohn**, well-known collectors of glass art and contemporary crafts, will host an extraordinary evening of culinary art in a special, intimate and personal setting for 16. The architecturally striking 45th floor penthouse apartment, designed by Architects Cecil Baker, recipient of Hall of Fame Award and Laurie Olin, recipient of Landscape Architect of the Year 2008, offers spectacular panoramic views of Philadelphia for this very special evening.

Creative and intriguing cocktails in hand-blown goblets will be served to guests as they stroll through this Philadelphia apartment with its interestingly displayed craft collection. The sumptuous multi-course dinner, each showcased with pieces from their vast collection of craft for the table, accompanied by wines, will be presented by their private chef, Cyrus Khambatta. Khambatta, Indian born, London and Swiss trained, a graduate of the American Culinary Institute and former executive chef of a Ritz Carlton, promises to dazzle.

A Dale Chihuly “chandelier” installed horizontally in the ceiling, a jacket woven in gold

and yellow threads by Jon Eric Riis, and a spectacular panorama of Philadelphia are a few of the surprises which greet guests as they stroll through the penthouse apartment.

The Cohns have been collecting and commissioning beautiful table top art for over four decades. Their legendary and renowned collection is unparalleled in this country. With each course, guests will be using the best and most creative implements available on the planet. The Cohns’ travels have taken them to the far reaches of the world, and their collection reflects this wide reaching interest in other cultures. Norman is an avid wine connoisseur and will provide the exquisite wines for each course.

Please join us at the Center City apartment of Suzanne and Norman Cohn for an evening to benefit The James Renwick Alliance at a mutually convenient time. The dinner is a **live auction item** for Spring Craft Weekend. Opening bids will start at \$750 a person and are nonrefundable but transferrable for winning bidders. Expressions of interest are welcome by contacting the JRA office at 301-907-3888, [admin@jra.org](mailto:admin@jra.org).





SCW 2012 SILENT AUCTION



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. Kathleen Dustin, *Layered Fragments*, evening bag
2. Sara Gallo, *Garden Party Necklace* (and three matching bracelets), doll shoes, sterling
3. Gustave Reyes, *Trefoil Not Brooch*, wood, sterling
4. Hayley Smith, *Going Under: The Hand of the Maker Series*, turned, bleached, colored, textured maple wall piece
5. Paulus Berensohn, *Begging Bowl*, ceramic
6. Liz Mears, *Waiting for Spring*, glass, mixed media
7. Mary Jackson, *Accordion Basket with Handle*, sweetgrass, bulrush, palmetto
8. Debra Fritts, *Song for the Earth*, stoneware, glazes
9. Leslie Genninger, *Primavera*, Murano glass necklace
10. Rick Beck, *JRA Souvenir Spoon*, cast, carved glass
11. Kiyomi Iwata, *Water, Earth and Sky-Two*, silk organza, embroidery
12. Hideaki Miyamura, *Blossom Vase*, porcelain, gold glaze
13. Gayle Friedman, *Vertically Hung Brooch*, sterling, porcelain, rubies



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.

## THESE EVENTS AND ADVENTURES AWAIT YOUR BIDS!

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are presenting condensed versions of each **Event** and **Adventure** as a teaser in the space we have. The JRA web site [www.jra.org](http://www.jra.org) will have a detailed description of each item online by March 1.



### One Fabulous Night at the Willard Hotel

The Willard InterContinental Hotel at 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC, is the crown jewel of Pennsylvania Avenue. Since 1850, the name "Willard" has epitomized the grand hotel concept in the nation's capital. Today, Willard InterContinental Washington continues the tradition in landmark style.

Located just two blocks from the White House and the National Mall, the hotel is convenient to government and business offices, shopping and many must-see sights. The Willard is offering an overnight stay in a suite with breakfast at this fantastic address. Silent auction item for two people. Value: \$1,600.



### North & Schwartz Collections: Ceramics in NYC

Visit two of the most fascinating collections of ceramics and a gallery owner who supports their passion in New York. Halsey and Alice North will lead you through their collection in an in-depth discussion of artists who are among the leading creative forces in Japanese sculptural ceramics today. They will welcome you to their home and provide wine and hors d'oeuvres. Judith Schwartz, a maker and professor, will take you through her extensive collection of ceramics in White Plains, NY, emphasizing her passion—confrontational themes. Joan B. Mirviss LTD, is an expert dealer in modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics in her Madison Avenue gallery. Silent auction item for six people, one meal, \$250 per person.



### Private Tour of Cranbrook

Cranbrook, a famous school of art and design for more than 75 years, has been home to some of the world's most renowned designers and artists. Gerhardt Knodel, Cranbrook's former executive director and one of JRA's first Distinguished Educators, is offering a two and half day, three night visit to this magical area near Detroit, MI. Not only is the Cranbrook Academy on the tour, but also visits to collectors, artists, galleries, the Detroit Institute of Art, and Knodel's personal museum. He is offering to escort 10 people from Oct. 4–7, 2012. Itinerary will be provided with dinners in private homes and local transportation by limousine. Air transportation and lodging are not included. Silent auction item for 10. Beginning bid, \$980 per person. Value: Invaluable.



### Three-night Weekend Cape May, NJ for Six

Enjoy a weekend in Victorian Cape May, NJ, the nation's first National Historic Landmark City, at the Jennie Lane Cottage. The cottage is a unique property, half a block from the beach and half a block from the pedestrian mall, on one of the most historic streets in town. This charming house has three bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen, dining room and living room, plus a porch. Stay up to three nights on any off-season weekend (mid-September to mid-May) for a fabulous family-friendly vacation for up to six people at a date to be arranged at mutually convenient time. Silent auction opening bid, \$400. Value: \$750.

## SILENT AUCTION, cont.



14.

14. Tommy Simpson, *Moon Blossom*, jewelry cabinet

15. Judith S. Schwartz, *Confrontational Ceramics*, signed book



15.

You can bid on Live and Silent Auction items via telephone by calling the JRA office at 301-907-3888 both before and during the auctions.



# The Gary and Rebecca Show: The Stevens Organize and Coordinate SCW



Rebecca and Gary Stevens in their home with a piece by Glen Brill, a San Francisco Bay area artist.

Photos by Miriam Rosenthal

The overall organizing and coordinating of this year's Spring Craft Weekend (SCW) is in the capable hands of **Gary Stevens**, the Alliance's Vice President for Programs. When asked what background he had for taking on this task, Gary responded, "None." However, a little probing revealed that he has acquired a combination of skills that perfectly suit him for the task.

First, Gary understands the perspective of nonprofit organizations from his representation of several in his legal practice. And, as president of a neighborhood association with 400 members involved in a zoning issue, he polished his leadership skills. SCW is certainly all about fundraising, and Gary has been involved in major fundraising for his alma mater, Oxford University. And to indicate his JRA bona fides, he has been Acquisitions Subcommittee chair and before that Gary was the Secretary of the Board for many years.

How all of these pieces have come together to produce a fine coordinator is indicated by the enthusiasm Gary shows for his committee chairs. When speaking of this team Gary says they are helpful, delightful, and that their "focus and effort have been staggering." It sounds as if the SCW is in excellent hands!

The other half of the team is **Rebecca Stevens**, who this year is chairing the auctions to be held at the Gala. She has been involved with the JRA almost from its beginning, has been on the JRA board where she served as vice president, worked on the auction about 20 years ago with Sherley Koteen, and was one of the founders of the Craft Leaders Caucus.

In the late 1970s Rebecca was a fiber artist-in-residence at the Renwick. That morphed into a consulting curatorship at the Textile Museum where she has been for 30 years, so she certainly knows about craft art!

Settling on the items to be included in the auction is a protracted and delicate process. Rebecca started by asking for input from JRA members on which artists they would like to see represented. And then there are the intricacies of negotiating with the artists about which piece would be just right for *this* year.

Rebecca shared a bit of a "behind-the-scenes" preview of this year's auction. For one thing there will be a wide range of price points for the objects. While there will still be the high-end art by established artists we have come to expect, Rebecca has also sought out work in a more modest price range.

As a special treat, this year's auctioneer will be Martin Gammon who is the managing director of the mid-Atlantic Region for Bonhams—the British auction house established in 1793. They opened an office in D.C. in July 2011, and are eager to build connections with local collectors.

The Stevens, married for 44 years, have shared an interest in art from the beginning—they began collecting art while in college! And they work well together. Asking either one to do a job means that you get the advantage of input from both of them. They come as a package deal—and this year, the JRA is the beneficiary of that package.

—Johanna Thompson



Michael James who will be here for a Distinguished Artist Lecture and workshop on April 28 and 29 made this quilt called *The Nature of Things*, 2003, in the Stevens collection.

## SCW Panel Discussion

# Japanese Influence on American Craft Features Distinguished Panelists, Moderator

The Saturday, March 24 panel discussion *Japanese Influence on American Craft* highlights four distinguished panelists and a renowned moderator in the area of Japanese ceramics.

The discussion is taking place from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon at The Smithsonian American Art Museum Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium (G and 8th Street entrance).



Halsey North (right) with Morino Taimei in his studio in Japan. The work *95-3: Now and Now* from the Halsey and Alice North Collection is one of the best examples of Morino's pierced wall pieces. To create the surface textures, he used glazes with a high glass content, fired each layer of glaze sequentially, and then finished this platinum-glazed work with red, silver, green and blue loops.

The moderator is **Halsey North** who, with his wife Alice, assists not-for-profit performing arts centers and theaters with raising capital and operating funds, strengthening their boards of directors and doing long-range planning. Since their visit to Japan in 1986, they have visited many contemporary Japanese ceramic artists and actively collected their work. Their passion for this incredible artform has been the focus of major exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Japan Society, New York.

**Jack Lenor Larsen** is a textile designer, author and collector and promoter of traditional and contemporary craftsmanship in all its forms. Since the 1950s he has designed thousands of fabric patterns and textiles, many associated with the modernist architecture and furnishings popular with post-1945 American consumers. From the beginning, Jack Lenor Larsen's distinctive



Jack Lenor Larsen

hand-woven furnishing fabrics with random repeats in variegated, natural yarns were popular. His passion for international weaving and textile crafts made him familiar with techniques such as ikat and batik, which he introduced to the American public and by 1974, Larsen's company was manufacturing fabrics in 30 countries. His LongHouse—13,000 square feet of floor space spread over 18 acres and four floors—was built in collaboration with architect Charles Forberg



Donald Friedlich





Wendy Maruyama

and showcases Larsen's fabrics and collection of historical and contemporary crafts. The house is not open to the general public, but the garden is regularly open to the public.

**Donald Friedlich**, jeweler, is familiar to JRA members from his exhibitions at the Smithsonian Craft Show, the ACC show in Baltimore and his involvement with SNAG (Society of North American Goldsmiths). Beginning with his time at Rhode School of Design (RSID) when he was first introduced to the book of photographs of traditional Japanese packaging called *How to Wrap Five More Eggs*, the art, design and architecture of Japan has been a major influence in his work. The stunning Japanese gardens of Kyoto have also been of paramount importance. Donald has utilized a wide range of materials in his jewelry, such as slate, glass, gold and diamonds. His current work, which he calls "site-adaptive jewelry" exploits the optical qualities of glass so that the jewelry magnifies the weave of the clothing on which it is worn, the objective being to make work that bridges three media: jewelry, glass and fiber.

**Wendy Maruyama's** furniture has taken on stylistic influences from Asia. Born in La Junta, CO, to second-generation Japanese-American parents, she made several pilgrimages to Japan, the land of her heritage. At times reverent of Japan's craft history and advanced technology and appalled by Japan's self-indulgent, materialistic and almost faceless and patriarchal society, she vacillates between creating works that both emulate and satirize contemporary Japan. Her latest work, *Executive Order 9066*, is hitting closer to home—the work is influenced by personal and family history and addresses the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans in 1942. This event dramatically changed the Japanese American psyche and to this day is still a vague segment of history to most Americans.

In her position as a professor of ceramics, **Dr. Judith Schwartz** encounters students from around the world. Her reputation as an expert in the area of ceramics in Asia comes from her involvement in the creation and continuation of the biennial International Ceramics Exhibition in South Korea. Her talk will be about a fundamental shift in American Ceramics toward Japanese influences of the past century and how Japan's ceramic technology continues to inspire new ways of working this material.

This event is selected as an official event of the **National Cherry Blossom Festival**. Casual attire. Arranged by Gary Stevens, the panel discussion is free and open to the public.



Judith S. Schwartz

## Houston Study Tour Offers Exciting Craft Venues

Applications for The Craft Leaders Caucus study tour to Houston are in and deposits are due in a few days. Sandy and Norman Mitchell are leading the four day trip from Wednesday, May 9 to Saturday, May 12.

The study tour will include curated tours of The Menil Collection and The Rothko Chapel. At the Museum of Fine Arts Houston we will have a curated tour of *Shifting Paradigms in Contemporary Ceramics: The Garth Clark and Mark Del Vecchio Collection*. We will also see the generous gift of ceramics to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston by our own Lee and Mel Eagle and the Helen Drutt collection of jewelry.

We will visit the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

for two shows: *Transference: Andy Paiko and Ethan Rose* (celebrating the 50th anniversary of the development of studio art glass in America), and *Bridge 11: Lia Cook*, a solo exhibition of the renowned fiber artist's work. Ms. Cook will be there to enhance our experience. Our visits to private collections will include that of Lester Marks—voted one of the top private collections in the U.S. by national art publications. In addition, we will visit artists' studios, galleries with artists present to explain their works, and much more.

We are ending the tour on Saturday evening, May 12, to allow those of you concerned with being home for Mother's Day the opportunity to do so.

# Milestones

## from the JRA's first 30 Years...

In the past 30 years since the James Renwick Alliance was founded in 1982, 183 objects have been donated to the permanent collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery, the James Renwick Fellowship in American Craft has been awarded to 30 scholars; and over \$3 million has been provided to support Renwick Gallery acquisitions, exhibitions, public programs, publications and fellowships. Here are some of the highlights and acquisition gifts from the years 1982–2012.

**1982**  
James Renwick Collectors Alliance is founded by craft enthusiasts to support public lectures and acquisitions for the Renwick's permanent collection.

**1984**  
First Craft Study Tour visits artists' studios, private collections, gallery and museum exhibitions in Richmond, VA.

**1983**  
Peter Voukos, *Rocking Pot*

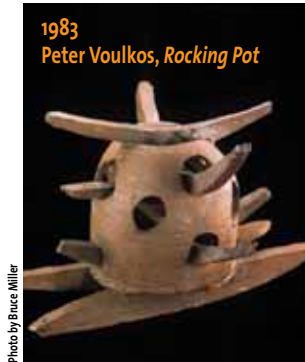
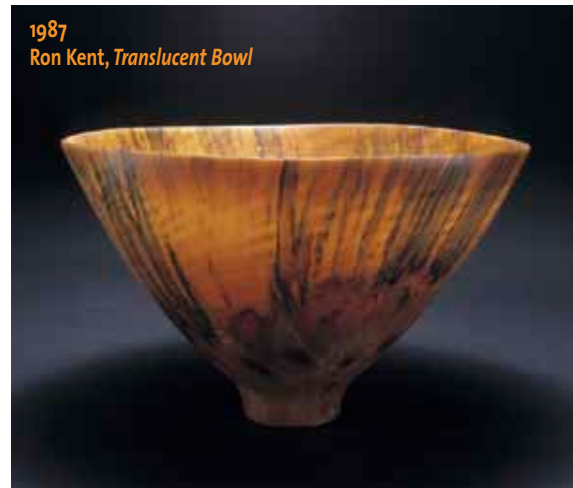


Photo by Bruce Miller

**1987**  
Ron Kent, *Translucent Bowl*



**1987**  
The organization is renamed the James Renwick Alliance. First Honorary Board of distinguished craft artists is established.

**1982**

**1983**

**1984**

**1985**

**1986**

**1987**

**1988**

**1989**

**1983**  
First Craft Weekend, *Crafts Today: The 1983 National Forum on Connoisseurship and Collecting*, includes talks by arts advocate Joan Mondale and Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley. First issue of *Renwick Quarterly* newsletter provides news of the Renwick Gallery programs and Alliance activities for members (later renamed *Quarterly*).

**1986**  
First craft demonstration, a four-day woodturning workshop by master craftsmen is held in the Renwick's Palm Court.

**1988**  
First James Renwick Fellowship in American Craft is awarded to two scholars.



**1982**  
Jody Klein, *Commemorative Quilt* (detail), first gift of JRA to the Renwick Gallery to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Photo by Bruce Miller

**1985**  
Mary Lee Hu, *Choker (#38)*



© 1986, Rudy Autio; Photo by Bruce Miller

**1987**  
Rudy Autio, *Listening to the East Wind*



Photo by Bruce Miller

**1989**  
Dale Chihuly, *Emerald Green Blanket Cylinder with Cerulean Blue Drawing*





1991  
Larry Fuente,  
*Game Fish*

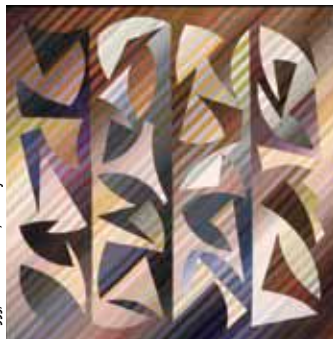
© 1988, Larry Fuente;  
Photo by Bruce Miller



1997  
Edward Moulthrop,  
*Hackberry Spheroid*

1993  
John McQueen, *Untitled #192*

© 1989, John McQueen; Photo by Bruce Miller



© 1993, Michael F. James; Photo by Bruce Miller

1994  
Michael James, *Quilt #150:  
Rehoboth Meander*

1995  
Richard Marquis,  
*Teapot Goblets*

Photo by Bruce Miller



1994  
First Patrons Dinner, a major fundraising event, is introduced as part of Craft Weekend.

1997  
15th Anniversary.  
*A Sentimental Journey* gala for Craft Weekend honors Alliance Founders.

First Masters of the Medium award is presented.

*Quarterly* is redesigned with a new logo.

Web site is launched at [www.jra.org](http://www.jra.org)

1990  
Craft Leaders Caucus membership level is created to assist in building the Renwick's preeminent collection and to provide a forum for a national network of craft supporters.

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997

1992  
Sam Maloof,  
*Double Rocking Chair*

© 1992, Sam Maloof, F.A.C.C.;  
Photo by Bruce Miller



1992  
10th Anniversary.  
First fundraising auction is included in Craft Weekend events.  
New program of workshops and lectures is initiated.



Photo by Bruce Miller

1990  
John Prip, *Silver Coffeepot*

Photo by Bruce Miller



1993  
John Cederquist,  
*Ghost Boy*

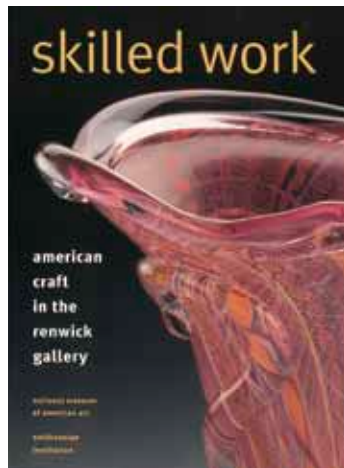


1994  
Renwick's Grand Salon is transformed with installation of sets designed by Dale Chihuly for Seattle Opera Company's production of Debussy's *Pelleas and Melisande*.



1992  
(featured on book cover)  
Fritz Dreisbach, *Ruby Wet Foot Mongo with Kissing Serpents and Lily Pad*

© 1988, Fritz Dreisbach; Photo by Bruce Miller



1998  
*Skilled Work*, the first book about the Renwick Gallery, is published partially funded by the Alliance. Included is a *Chronology of the James Renwick Alliance*.  
First Craft Leaders Caucus trip outside U.S. to England.



1998  
Karla Trinkley, *Rosette*



2000  
First Distinguished Educators awards presented during Spring Craft Weekend.  
First Alliance trip outside U.S. to Canada.

© 1999, Arline Fisch; Photo by Bruce Miller



2003  
Arline Fisch, *Bracelet and Glove*



2002  
20th Anniversary.  
Renwick Gallery leaders, Michael Monroe, Kenneth Trapp and Lloyd Herman, are honored during Spring Craft Weekend.



2003  
Ruth Duckworth, *Untitled*

1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

1999  
Memorandum of Agreement is signed with the Smithsonian American Art Museum.  
National Resource Board is established.

2001  
Alliance funds surpass \$1,000,000 for objects donated to Renwick's permanent collection.

2005  
First One-of-a-Kind award presented to Shirley and Marshall Jacobs, longstanding supporters.

1998  
Michael Frimkess, *Ecology Krater II (Out Biking with Aunt Samantha)*

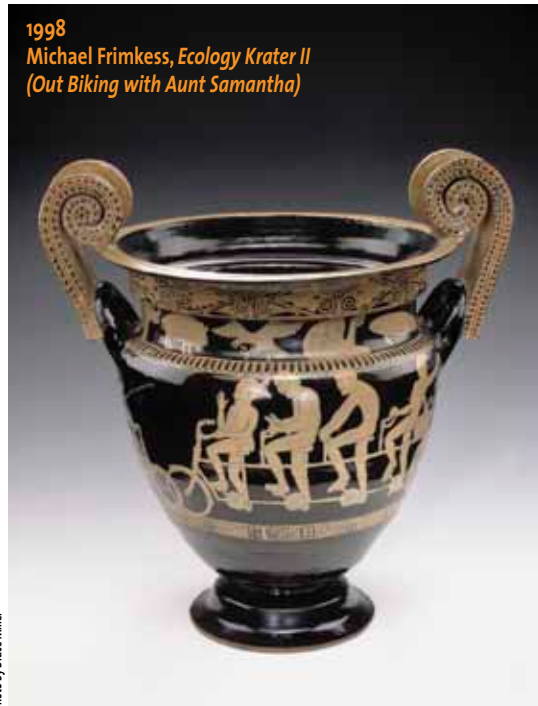


Photo by Bruce Miller



2002  
Diane Itter, *Bordered Fields*

Photo by Bruce Miller







**2006**  
*Quarterly* is redesigned, broadened in scope and includes color for the first time.  
 Alliance Founders are honored with One-of-a-Kind award.



**2008**  
 Silas Kopf, *Bad Hare Day*



**2011**  
 Matthias Pliessnig, *Drift*

© 2011, Matthias Pliessnig



**2012**  
 Spring Craft Weekend: *Glorious Anniversaries!* 40th for the Renwick Gallery, 30th for JRA on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Japanese gift of cherry trees to DC. One-of-a-Kind award goes to Fleur Bresler.  
 JRA finances catalogue from the Dale Chihuly Publication Fund for the Renwick anniversary exhibition, *40 Under 40: Craft Futures*.



**2008**  
 First JRA Day, a show and sale of the work of JRA artists members.  
 JRA brunch at SOFA Chicago (above) emphasizes public awareness of the Alliance.



**2010**  
 Medium Days focus on each medium individually, visiting studios, private and museum collections and galleries.  
 Grants from DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities provides funds for a promotional video and Distinguished Artist Lecture Series (above with silversmith Ubaldo Vitali).

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

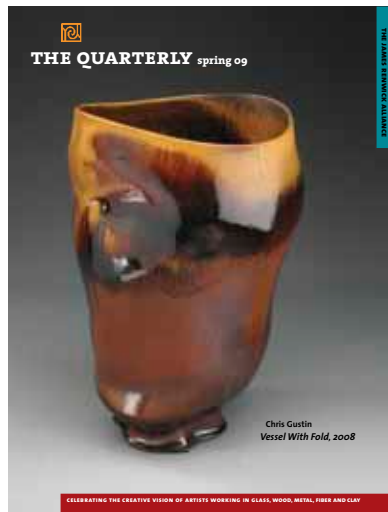
2011

2012

**2007**  
 Silver Jubilee! 25th Anniversary of the James Renwick Alliance is celebrated during Spring Craft Weekend; incumbent and past presidents are honored at the gala dinner.



**2009**  
 Renwick Gallery Founding Director Lloyd Herman is presented with One-of-a-Kind award during Spring Craft Weekend. JRA participates for the first time in ARTomatic, gives media awards.  
*Quarterly* is redesigned from a newsletter into a magazine format.



Chris Gustin  
 Vessel With Fold, 2008

CELEBRATING THE CREATIVE VISION OF ARTISTS WORKING IN GLASS, WOOD, METAL, FIBER AND CLAY

**2011**  
 Spring Craft Weekend moves from April to March and coincides with the 2011 Renwick *Invitational* preview. Sherley and Bernard Koteen receive One-of-a-Kind award. Lloyd Herman is honored during a dessert tribute at the gala for his contribution to the endowment for a second Renwick curator. Funds raised from Weekend events were the highest ever.  
 Introduction of the promotional video, *Making a Difference: The James Renwick Alliance*, also on the web site [www.jra.org](http://www.jra.org).  
 First New Year's Eve Fun(d)raising Party is both fun and a financial success.



**2009**  
 Karen LaMonte, *Reclining Dress Impression with Drapery*

© 2009, Karen LaMonte; Photo by Martin Polak



## Barbara Wolanin, Curator of the Capitol Educates, Offers Special Tour



Barbara Wolanin

Barbara Wolanin, curator of the U.S. Capitol and JRA board member, offered a deal which could not be refused—a tour of the Capitol art collection to the organizers of the New Year's Eve party and the artists who exchanged their work for a ticket. Twenty took her up on the offer and met on Friday, January 27, for this truly wonderful tour of such magnificently conserved parts of the building.

The group heard about Constantino Brumidi's murals painted in the Capitol in the late 1850s, with additions in the 1870s, their being painted over in dark and muddy colors in the next century, and their conservation to uncover his beautiful colors, details, and three-dimensional effects beginning in the mid 1980s and still ongoing.

The art in the U.S. Capitol has been acquired principally for its public, patriotic, and commemorative characteristics. Not conceived as a conventional art collection, the art instead is intended to commit to posterity the persons and events of the national history, centered upon the institution and on the founding of the Republic.

Most importantly, Barbara educated the group on the history of the collection and the current conservation and preservation programs with which she



U.S. Capitol

Photos by Miriam Rosenthal

is involved. The group moved from the Senate Appropriations room to the parts of the building now a museum: the original Supreme Court room, the rotunda, the hall of statues and the newly

opened visitors center. She pointed out conservation efforts of so many parts of the building to the point that the group became well informed on how the building was before and what it is now.

## Nancy Selvin Relates History of California Ceramics from 1960–1970

Nancy Selvin who was a student of Peter Voukos in the late 1960s related her experiences and the history of ceramics at University of California at Berkeley to the Craft Leaders Caucus and board members on Sunday, January 29. "How it all Began: California Ceramics 1960–1970," the topic of her lecture, was coupled with a PowerPoint presentation about those who were teaching at Berkeley during this period.

The lecture was interspersed with questions and comments from the audience and she sparked heightened interest with

her comments about and around this decade. Nancy was a student at UC Berkeley in 1967 and later became a guest teacher there. She taught at Laney College for 18 years, and retired in 1993. She is currently an adjunct professor of ceramics at California College of the Arts.

She is known to JRA members as an ardent supporter and former president and current board member of the Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, New Castle, ME. She is organizing a tour of craft venues from Portland, ME, to Watershed in July for its 25th



Nancy Selvin makes a point to the Caucus and board members at "An Afternoon of Learning."

Miriam Rosenthal

anniversary celebration.

Sandy and Norman Mitchell hosted the group for this lively and informative discussion. Sharon Buchanan and Barbara Berlin organized the event which

is one of three programs the Craft Leaders Caucus sponsors for its members. The next program will be a spectacular summer social, still under wraps until closer to the date. So stay tuned.



## Board Member to Watch: The Multi-Faceted Robert Minkoff



Miriam Rosenthal

Robert Minkoff is a passionate collector, here holding a Paul Stankard orb with a piece by Dan Dailey on the table and a flame worked piece by Brent Kee Young in the background.

Trying to describe Robert Minkoff and his many activities is a bit like trying to capture the fractured rainbow reflections from a Jon Kuhn glass sculpture. The pieces are related, but incredibly diverse.

Robert had been collecting art with a focus on glass, wood and textiles for some time when he met glass artist Richard Ritter in 1991. Robert was mesmerized by the *Triolet* series, in which pieces are encased in clear glass but contained murrine and veil elements. The three-dimensional properties of the work fascinated him since one could change what one saw by changing viewing angles or the lighting. The die was cast: he purchased his first major piece, and his personal collection has continued to grow since.

While in Tacoma, Washington, seven years ago, Robert met Paul Stankard at a demonstration at the hot shop of the Museum of Glass. Paul's work was already well represented in Robert's collection and, becoming a good friend with the man behind the work added a new element to Robert's involvement; thus, he set about documenting the flame working artist's career.

Robert has loaned more than 70 pieces of his collection to the Museum of Glass in

Tacoma where the exhibit *Beauty Beyond Nature: the Glass Art of Paul Stankard* is now on display. Not satisfied with loaning his art, Robert also assisted in designing the show, and his foundation, the Robert M. Minkoff Foundation, sponsored the exhibit and opening reception. The Foundation also published a beautiful art book to accompany the exhibit with high level magnification photographs, allowing appreciation of the detail in the work.

For at least 10 years Robert has been contributing to the work of various arts organizations through private donations and the Robert M. Minkoff Foundation. As an example, three glass artists will be selected to spend a week at the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion this March to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the origin of the studio glass movement. This residency, co-sponsored by the museum and the Robert M. Minkoff Foundation, allows the artists to participate in building a furnace modeled on the one developed by Harvey Littleton and Dominick Labino. They will then pursue individual projects in glass and make a presentation of the work produced on March 30. The Foundation also provides major support to Wheaton Arts, a New Jersey organization, which promotes glass arts with a museum of glass and a hot shop.

Beyond something to give pleasure, Robert sees art glass as a tool used to attract and focus the attention of individuals who are at risk of failure. Its unique allure can be used as an enticement to the value of an education in the glass arts. To this end, the Minkoff Foundation has endowed two scholarships at Salem Community College in New Jersey for full-time glass art students.

Named to JRA's Board in 2007, Robert has been helpful to the organization for years. With his knowledge of leading glass artists, he has built connections which resulted in major contributions to the Spring Craft Weekend auctions. He has purchased major works at the auction, has been a Caucus member for years, has brought in glass artists such as Paul Stankard to give educational programs, the Foundation contributed to the Lloyd Herman Curator of American Craft fund, and he has supported the attendance of young artists at the gala.—*Johanna Thompson*



Miriam Rosenthal

Meeting at the reception were, left, Ann Peel co-chair of the Smithsonian Craft Show, Clemmer Montague, JRA president, Gary Stevens, JRA vice president for programs, Anne-Lise Auclair-Jones, co-chair of the SCS, and Wendy Somerville Wall, Smithsonian Women's Committee president.

### JRA, SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MEET FOR COMMON GOOD

A cocktail party at the Metropolitan Club on February 21 commemorated the 30th anniversaries of the James Renwick Alliance and the Smithsonian Craft Show. The program was put together by Anne-Lise Auclair-Jones, Smithsonian Craft Show chair, and Gary Stevens, JRA vice president of programs. The idea of the party was to continue the cooperation and interaction between the two groups. A table staffed by the JRA and Women's Committee allowed members of both groups to sign up for each other's upcoming events: Spring Craft Weekend events for JRA and Smithsonian Craft Show events for the women's committee.



Miriam Rosenthal

At a lunch in her honor, Ginny Ruffner and Norman Mitchell look at her sculpture in Seattle on her iPhone. Others at the table were Tim Tate, Johanna Thompson, Paul Parkman and Cynthia Boyer.

*A Not So Still Life*, a documentary about the life of lampworker **Ginny Ruffner**, was shown at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery on Wednesday, February 29. Maurine Littleton of Maurine Littleton Gallery opened her gallery afterwards to a reception of Ginny's work. On Tuesday, Ginny joined 18 JRA members at a gumbo lunch at the home of Clemmer and David Montague, where Ginny's piece *Ghost Turnip in the Sky* was the centerpiece.

# New Year's Eve Party: A Smashing Success at the Huberman Home

By Mallory Lawson



**ABOVE,** The Welcoming Committee to the New Year's Eve party included Marilyn Hardis, Norman Mitchell, David Montague, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, host Giselle Huberman, Clemmer Montague and Brigitte Savage.



Photos by Miriam Rosenthal

**TOP,** Dancing with Barbara Bennett. **ABOVE,** Marc and Diane Grainer with Tim Tate—Winners of "Name That Artist." **BELOW,** The game room: playing and watching.

The New Year's Eve party at Giselle and Ben Huberman's fabulous new home was a smashing success. A total of 80 JRA members and guests enjoyed their extensive collection of art and craft, played "Name that Artist," (won by Diane and Marc Grainer), dined on delicious food prepared by Occasions Caterer, played blackjack, poker and other table games, shopped for treasures in Le Store, danced with the help of Barbara Bennett, and were entertained by "The American Crafties" (Clemmer Montague, Giselle Huberman, Sandy Mitchell and Elmerina Parkman). What a Hoot!

The really nice part of the evening was the presence of artists who exchanged pieces of their work at equal value for tickets, encouraged by committee member Tim Tate.

Pati Young artfully arranged desserts in the lower level "Cabaret," and champagne was served for a big toast at midnight to welcome in 2012. This was a perfect winter evening with a perfect ending to 2011 and the beginning of what we hope is a wonderful 2012.







**ABOVE, Le Store. BELOW, Midnight kiss: Dana Travas and Chris Shea. BOTTOM, The gift made by Rania Hassan for Giselle and Ben Huberman, presented by Clemmer Montague, president, with master of ceremonies Tim Tate.**

Funds raised went to replenishing the Dale Chihuly Publication Fund.

The committee planning the New Year's Eve party met at lunch on January 18 and unanimously voted to throw another New Year's Eve party on December 31, 2012, so mark your calendar.

A huge heartfelt "thank you" goes to Giselle and Ben for opening their home and to Giselle for chairing this logistically complicated event. It not only went off without a glitch, but was a blast to plan with fun potluck lunches and dinners leading up to the big event.

Committee members Marilyn Hardis, Shirley and Randi Jacobs, Mallory Lawson, Sandy and Norman Mitchell, David and

Clemmer Montague, Elmerina and Paul Parkman, Miriam Rosenthal, Brigitte Savage, Bonnie Schwartz, Tim Tate and Pati Young joined Giselle and Ben in planning the party. What a way to start 2012!



Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Administrator, and Kathrin V. Halpern, Special Projects Manager, at the New Year's Eve Party.

**HELLO, I'M KAT!**

Dear JRA Membership, my name is Kathrin ("Kat") V. Halpern, and I am the new Special Projects Manager. I'm in the office on a part-time basis working with Cicie on a variety of projects. I'm excited to be a part of the preparations for this year's Spring Craft Weekend, Glorious Anniversaries.

In addition to my work at the JRA, I am a freelance art historian and fine arts management consultant. I have worked for several museums and galleries in Washington, D.C., including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and The Smithsonian Art Collectors Program.

I hold a B.A. in Art History and Pre-Med Studies from Franklin & Marshall College, and a M.A. in Art History from The George Washington University. I am a native resident of Washington, D.C.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks.





**WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL OUR STUFF? LEARN HOW TO RECYCLE**

What to do with all the craft objects we have acquired over the years is becoming a major question of collectors, and the secondary market of craft is one option to consider. With this in mind, the James Renwick Alliance will present an evening of conversation with three experts in the area of the secondary market.

The program will take place for all JRA members on Thursday, May 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Renwick Gallery's Grand Salon. The discussion will center on the criteria for the relative importance of the artist, the quality of the individual work, the fairness of the price, the condition of the piece, and the difference between the primary and secondary art markets. Once the artwork is purchased and the purchaser decides to sell it, it enters the secondary market or in simpler terms the "used" or "secondhand" market.



The experts are **Lewis Wexler** (above left), one of the top dealers of the secondary market in a gallery space in Philadelphia, **Jeffrey Spahn** (above right) of San Francisco, an online secondary market dealer for ceramics who does not use a gallery space, and **Leatrice Eagle** (left), Potomac, MD-based fine art advisor and appraiser.



**RENWICK GALLERY AND THE DESIGN CENTER'S DREAMHOME PROJECT**

The Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery has paired with The Washington Design Center for a unique artistic collaboration. Celebrating the next generation of design in Washington, D.C., eight emerging interior designers have been selected to create the 2012 DreamHome Project inspired by works featured in the exhibition, *40 Under 40: Craft Futures*, opening this summer at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery.

The 2012 DreamHome designers explore color, texture, scale, and perspective through their interpretations of artworks in the exhibition. Located on the 5th Floor of the The Washington Design Center, the DreamHome provides inspiration for how the design center's furnishings, fabric and decor can be combined into spectacular residential spaces.

The 2012 DreamHome will be unveiled at a preview party on March 15 from 5–8 p.m. and will remain open through Nov. 30. Tickets are \$35 and will benefit the Renwick Gallery's *40 Under 40: Craft Futures* acquisition fund. For more information and to purchase tickets for the opening, please visit [www.dcdesigncenter.com/dreamhomeparty](http://www.dcdesigncenter.com/dreamhomeparty) or bring cash/check to the party. To R.S.V.P. contact Belinda Riggs 202.646.6108 or [briggs@mmart.com](mailto:briggs@mmart.com).

**Jennifer Trask Finishes Distinguished Artist Series**

The final Distinguished Artist Lecture Series will be by artist **Jennifer Trask**, with the workshop on June 2 and the lecture at the Renwick on Sunday, June 3 at 2 p.m.

Jennifer employs found materials such as bone, wood and antlers referring to the Dutch tradition of Vanitas and, at the same time, addressing the traditional practice of isolating examples and ideas of beauty stylization of nature "in effect, the death of the real the imperfect, the individual."

She is a graduate of Massachusetts College of Art and has a MFA degree from State University of New York at New Paltz. She remains in the Hudson Valley area where she is a full time studio artist. Her work is in the

Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery collection. Jennifer's work has been in the JRA auctions in the past.

The cost of the program is \$30 for JRA members and \$40 for non-members. We expect the workshop to fill up quickly, so reserve a place as soon as possible. See [www.jra.org](http://www.jra.org) or email [admin@jra.org](mailto:admin@jra.org) to register or for more information.



ABOVE, Jennifer Trask puts the finishing touches onto an untitled work in progress. TOP, Jennifer Trask's *Abundant Uselessness*, 2011. Photos courtesy of Jennifer Trask



## Debra Fritts Conducts Successful Workshop, Lecture



Making heads was the topic of the demonstration and workshop of Debra Fritts at the Saturday, February 11 program at Flux Studios. Photos by Miriam Rosenthal

**Debra Fritts** not only demonstrated how to make a perfect head at the workshop on Saturday, February 11, but she taught 20 other people the technique she uses to create her ceramic sculptures. And she had each person build a head!

It was a fantastic workshop. She showed the class how to determine where to place the eyes, nose, mouth, and ears, how to give the head a chin and a neck, and how to make the figure come alive with white and colored slips.

Under her instructing and probing, each workshop attendee decorated a head, and applied color to make each one come alive. Novie Trump, event organizer and co-owner of Flux Studios where the workshop took place, will dry and then fire the work for each of the participants. The workshop is part of the **Distinguished Artist Lecture Series** which includes a workshop on Saturday, a potluck dinner in the evening and a lecture in the Grand Salon of the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery.

The workshop was not all work. Fritts used a PowerPoint

presentation to explain her creative process, how she develops her ideas from her environment and her life, and how these ideas become sculptures.

In the process of moving from the east coast suburbs of Atlanta, a source of her ideas, to a rural area north of Santa Fe, she feels that her work will change to incorporate the light and space of that incredible area.

She elaborated on her process at the Renwick on Sunday. Debra has a sculpture in the Spring Craft Weekend silent auction on March 24, so look forward to bidding high on this wonderful piece of ceramic.



Debra Fritts demonstrates the method of measuring the head for placement of features on a sculpture.

## MASTER QUILTER MICHAEL JAMES TO CONDUCT A MASTER CLASS

The James Renwick Alliance Distinguished Artist Series is proud to offer a workshop by internationally renowned quilt maker **Michael James** on Saturday, April 28. The workshop will be conducted by Michael James as a master class. Attendees are encouraged to bring quilts they have made, and he will discuss their quilts, suggesting directions in which their work might go, and talk about his own work.

Quilt lovers who are not also quilt makers are equally encouraged to come, observe, ask questions and learn. The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Kaplan Gallery at VisArts, 115 Gibbs St., Suite 300, Rockville, MD (301-315-8200). A Red Line Metro stop and several parking garages are within walking distance.

A potluck dinner at a collector's home will follow in the evening, and class participants have first choice to attend. Pati Young is the coordinator.

Michael will present a lecture as part of the James Renwick Alliance Distinguished Artist Lecture Series at the Renwick Gallery's Grand Salon on Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m. This event is free to the public.

Michael James, a native and longtime resident of Massachu-



setts, now lives and maintains a studio in Lincoln, NE, where he is the Ardis James Professor and the department Chair in Textiles, Clothing & Design, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. There he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in textile design and quilt studies, and is a Faculty Fellow of the International Quilt Study Center & Museum, the largest publicly held collection of quilts in the world.

The cost of the workshop is \$30 for JRA members and \$40 for non-members. Normally, attendance to DAS workshops is limited to 20 attendees, but in light of the anticipated popularity of the Michael James workshop, we are expanding to a maximum of 50. Still, we expect the workshop to fill up quickly, so reserve a place as soon as possible. See [www.jra.org](http://www.jra.org) or email [admin@jra.org](mailto:admin@jra.org) to register and for more information.—Gary Stevens

## THE BARRETTS BUILT A PREMIER COLLECTION NATIONWIDE IN FURNITURE, CERAMICS, FIBER

The James Renwick Alliance presents three significant and remarkable art objects at the live auction on March 24 from the late Marilyn L. and John W. Barrett's collection, courtesy of Barrett family members. (See Page 7 for images.). Marilyn and John became interested in the studio craft movement by exposure to exhibitions at the newly opened Renwick Gallery in 1972.

Piqued by what they saw, the Barretts began acquiring superb examples by key figures in the craft movement with a particular emphasis on furniture, ceramics and textiles. As patrons of the arts, they also commissioned artists to create pieces featuring imagery unique to the family's history and interests. Marilyn had an intuitive art sense that, when combined with her discerning eye, resulted in one of the premier collections nationwide.—Michael Monroe

# Save the Dates!

(JRA events in red)

## March

March 15–November 30, Dream-Home Project, Washington Design Center

23 Caucus Day 2 p.m. Visits to Collectors' homes and an anniversary reception at the Renwick Gallery with special guests

24 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Panel Discussion on *Japanese Influence on American Craft*. Moderator Halsey North, Very special panelists: Jack Lenor Larsen and Donald Friedlich and two JRA Distinguished Educators: Wendy Maruyama and Dr. Judith S. Schwartz at the McEvoy Auditorium, Smithsonian American Art Museum

6 p.m. Gala/auctions at the Historic Willard Hotel. Patrons preview. Fleur Bresler One-of-a-Kind recipient recognition

25 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Distinguished Educators Award Brunch, Prestigious St. Regis Hotel: Paulus Berensohn, Wendy Maruyama, Stephen Powell, Dr. Judith S. Schwartz

## April

10 JRA Board meeting, Judy Weisman, 7:30 p.m.

18–22 Smithsonian Craft Show  
19–22 SOFA New York

28 Distinguished Artist Series, Michael James Master Class, VisArts, Rockville; Potluck, TBA

29 Distinguished Artist Series Lecture, Michael James, Renwick Gallery Grand Salon, 2 p.m.

## May

3 Secondary Market Seminar, Fran Burka, Renwick Gallery

6 *Something of Splendor: Decorative Arts from the White House* closes

7 JRA Board meeting, Giselle Huberman, 7:30 p.m.

9–12 Craft Leaders Caucus study tour to Houston

## June

2 Distinguished Artist Jennifer Trask at Studio 4903, Georgetown, Potluck TBA

3 Distinguished Artist Lecture, Jennifer Trask, Renwick Gallery Grand Salon, 2 p.m.

9 JRA Board meeting, Elizabeth Ryland Mears, 2 p.m.

## July

July 11–14 Watershed study tour  
20 40 Under 40: *Craft Futures* opens to the public

## Summer

Craft Leaders Caucus summer social TBA

## August

8–12 Penland study tour, Tim Tate

## September

29 Local study tour, Pat Arnold, Sandy Mitchell

## October

6–7 Distinguished Artist Lecture Series

15 Study Tour to Pittsburgh, TBA

## Anniversaries Galore!

Join in! Sign up for Spring Craft Weekend Events

Meet the Distinguished Educators at Spring Craft Weekend events:

Paulus Berensohn  
Wendy Maruyama  
Stephen Powell  
Judith Schwartz

## SMITHSONIAN CRAFT SHOW: APRIL 19–22

The Smithsonian Craft Show opens to the public on Thursday, April 19, featuring 121 distinguished artists in 12 categories and closes on Sunday, April 22.

The lineup is as follows: baskets 4, decorative fiber 9, ceramics 18, glass 8, jewelry 30, leather 4, furniture 11, metal 6, wood 12, mixed media 6, paper 3 and wearable art 12.

The show takes place at the National Building Museum at 401F Street, across the street from the Judiciary Square red line Metro stop. Anne-Lise Auclair-Jones and Ann Peel are the co-chairs of this year's show, and Wendy Somerville is the president of the SWC.

James Renwick Alliance members are encouraged to attend the 30th anniversary benefit, the Smithsonian Preview Night on Wednesday, April 18, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$200 per person by advance reservation and includes a cocktail buffet, first choice shopping, jazz by the John Paul Ensemble. Valet parking is available.

**General Admission:** \$15 Thursday, April 19: 10:30 am–8:30 pm; Friday, April 20: 10:30 am–8:30 pm; Saturday, April 21: 10:30 am–5:30 pm; Sunday April 22: 11 am–5 pm.

**Special Craft Show Evenings: Six After Six:** Thursday, April 19: 6–8:30 pm \$6 admission after 6 pm). Cash bar featuring craft beer and accompaniments.

**Wine, Rhythm and Craft:** Friday, April 20: 6–8:30 pm General Admission: \$15. Cash bar featuring wine, cheese and live jazz.

Further details about tickets, exhibitors, special events, raffle and on-line auction are at [www.SmithsonianCraftShow.org](http://www.SmithsonianCraftShow.org).



## JRA DAY CONTINUES UNDER NEW ORGANIZERS

JRA Day—the Alliance's exhibition and sale for our artist members—will continue and has been set for Saturday, December 1. Mallory Lawson, who started JRA Day and ran it for four years, is retiring to devote her energies to other projects.

Jere Gibber and J.G. Harrington are picking up the baton for this year's event. They have sent a survey to artist members to collect information on how to better organize the event and will be making some changes which they hope will bring new excitement to this event. Deposits have been made to the Chevy Chase Woman's Club on Connecticut Avenue, where it has been since the start. So mark your calendar for December 1, plan to volunteer and come to do your Christmas shopping.