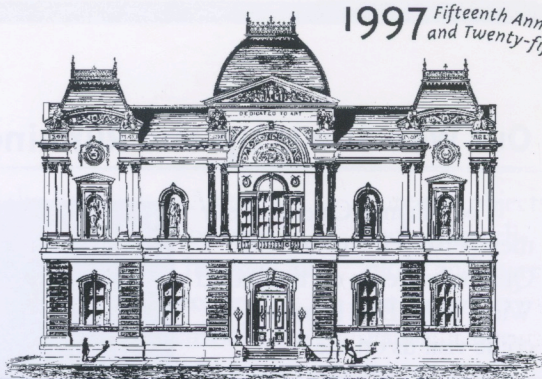


James Renwick Alliance



1997 Fifteenth Anniversary of the James Renwick Alliance
and Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Renwick Gallery

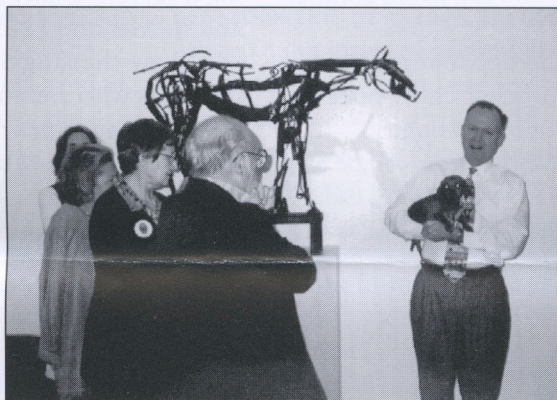
Winter 1996

Study Trips: The Beat Goes On

by Sandy Mitchell

The 1996–1997 season of Alliance trips is shaping up as something special—even by our own standards of organizing some of the best-planned, most-fun tours of studios, galleries, and collections anywhere. We started in

Easton, where we will view a special exhibition curated by Sally Hansen of the Glass Gallery in Bethesda and hear a lecture by glass artist Paul Stankard. Other events in this very full day will include a tour of Saff Company, a renowned print studio. And on May 18, the Alliance will visit the studios of a fiber artist and a ceramist as part of a fun-filled day on the craft circuit in Frederick, Md.



Richmond Trip: Jack Blanton Describes His Collection

September with the Caucus trip to Aspen, which one participant called the “best trip ever,” thanks to trip coordinators Barbara and Sid Dickstein and Susan Agger. Then came the Alliance trips to Richmond in October and to Philadelphia in November. In Richmond we viewed the Fabergé exhibit, and in Philadelphia we are to spend time at the Museum of Art Craft Show along with an assortment of studios, galleries, and private collections.

Next January 11, the Alliance will take a one-day excursion to Maryland’s Eastern Shore. We will visit the Academy of the Arts in



Caucus Members Enjoying Aspen with Paul Soldner

For its spring trip, the Craft Leaders Caucus will visit the east coast of Florida from March 3 to March 6. The trip coincides with the March 6 opening of SOFA in Miami. There will be an optional side trip to Jane and Arthur Mason’s island retreat the weekend before the trip. Next fall the Caucus will travel to Wisconsin, and those who are interested can go from there to the Chicago SOFA, which runs from October 16 through October 19.

Alliance Makes Major Contribution to Reinstallation *by Arthur Mason*

The Board of the James Renwick Alliance is pleased to announce that on October 7 it approved a contribution of \$50,000 to be used in the reinstallation of the Renwick Gallery’s permanent collection. The contribution was gratefully accepted by Betsy Broun, Director of the National Museum of American Art. It will

be used primarily for lighting, pedestals, podiums, vitrines, and other improvements designed to enhance the display of the permanent collection. The entire reinstallation is expected to cost \$120,000; construction will begin in mid-April 1997 and will be completed by the end of June.

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Our Web Site Is Up and Running

by Jane Mason

The Alliance Calendar, our membership form, and the Quarterly are up on the World Wide Web! Be a browser — come visit us on the Net!

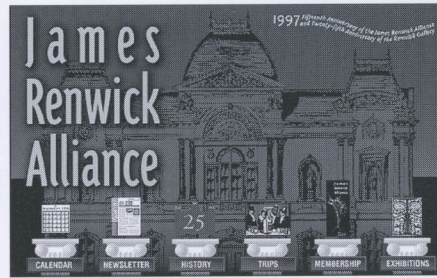
Get into the Internet and type <http://www.jra.org>. Then hit the Enter key.

Double-click on Newsletter and you will see the last two issues of the *Quarterly*. Eventually the site will have the *Caucus Report* as well.

Double-click on Calendar and you will see major national craft events for the next three months. In a week or two, the site will show six months of events so that you can avoid conflicts in trip planning.

Double-click on Membership Information and you will see our sign-up form, which we hope will attract members from all over the country.

By the time you receive this, you will be able to choose History, the most recent Craft Leader's Report, and this issue of the *Quarterly*. We will



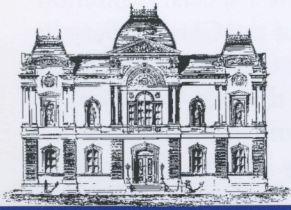
Our web address is <http://www.jra.org>

start with a brief history, which will be expanded to include acquisitions and fellowships we have funded, past educational programs, etc.

The World Wide Web Committee of the James Renwick Alliance includes Jane Mason, Jim Stockmal,

Brenda Erickson, Julianna Mahley, Ellen Kollar, Scott Jacobson, Pat Petrou, and Mary Hartzler. Mel and Lee Eagle of Eagle Design & Management, Inc. in Bethesda, Md. are handling the technical details and are providing a server. Many thanks to the committee and to Mel and Lee!

We are thinking of ways to help those members who are not comfortable with computers to gain access to the site. Let Jane Mason (janecrafts@aol.com) know if you would like to help answer new users' questions via phone, fax, mail, etc.



James Renwick Alliance QUARTERLY Winter 1996

The Quarterly is published four times a year by the James Renwick Alliance, a national independent nonprofit organization created to support the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

Editor:

Robert Sinclair

Assistant Editor:

Phil Brown

Graphic Design:

Collette Conconi

Eagle Design & Management, Inc.

Contributing:

Allen Bassing

Dan Berger

Shelly Brunner

John Kotelly

Arthur Mason

Jane Mason

Sandy Mitchell

Penny Pagano

Photography:

Dalene Barry

Virginia McGehee Friend

Toni Gordon

Sue Pierce

James Renwick Alliance

Shelley Gollust,

Executive Assistant

6801 Winterberry Lane

Bethesda, MD 20817

Tel: 301-229-2148

Fax: 301-229-8407

Internet: <http://www.jra.org>

Michael Monroe to ACC

Michael Monroe, the Renwick's former Curator-in-Charge, becomes Executive Director of the American Craft Council on December 2, according to an ACC press release. Congratulations, Michael!

Alliance Opens New Frontiers in Educational Outreach *by Shelly Brunner*

The current exhibit, "Conservation by Design," has opened a new opportunity for the educational outreach program funded by the Alliance. As in the past, children from Washington, D.C., are visting the Renwick this fall in a three-part program. This year, however, Renwick docents can include both art and environmental science concepts in their work with the students. Classroom teachers are encouraged to use the exhibit as a focus for science education, and to coordinate their activities with the art resource teachers. The program will culminate with a presentation by the students of their projects in the Renwick's Grand Salon. Current plans are for Alliance members to view the projects at Craft Weekend.

These works are the best evidence there is of the learning and enrichment made possible by the program. The Alliance provides supplies and bus transportation, and Renwick docents

work with the students and their teachers at the museum. In addition, staff members Allen Bassing and Shawn McRaney have provided help with logistics and materials.

Be a Craft Docent!

The Renwick Gallery is recruiting volunteers for its Docent Program. The training will take place once a week from January through May. After completing the training program, docents conduct tours for groups visiting the museum and for the general public. For more information, please contact Allen Bassing or Shelly Brunner at (202) 357-2531.

Renwick Profile: Ellen Myette

by Penny Pagano

Few people know the Renwick Gallery better than its Operations Manager, Ellen Myette. She has been there since the Gallery's birth, and no object enters until she has documented, catalogued, and safely cared for it. When ceramic artist Otto Natzler visited several years ago, his parting words to her were, "Take care of my children." Myette says, "I intend to do just that."

In addition to the care and management of the collection of about 500 objects, she coordinates exhibitions, supervises museum staff and building operations, and does liaison work with the National Museum of American Art and other Smithsonian offices. She also supervises graduate interns from the NMAA intern program. "I love the variety of what I do," she says.

Myette studied art history in college and did graduate work at George Washington University in museum administration. She was in her first job in the education department at NMAA when Lloyd Herman, the Renwick's first administrator, approached her to work in the new museum. She began

working at the Renwick in August 1971, six months before it opened.

Over the years, Myette has seen just about everything from protesters to artists who arrive at the Renwick lugging their art and asking to see a curator. Visitors occasionally show up looking for an object that a relative gave to the Smithsonian decades ago. "They know that we're the nation's attic and think it must be somewhere," she says. Experiences like these have taught her that "you have to roll with the punches. You have to be ready for all things."

In the early days, with no permanent collection of its own, the Renwick offered exhibitions of decorative arts, craft, and design from here and abroad. In conjunction with a visit to Washington by the Queen of Denmark, the gallery exhibited Royal Copenhagen porcelain. But when the Queen visited the Renwick, she was more keen to see another exhibit featuring Western and South American saddles.

Then there was the time the entire museum had to be fumigated. It happened during a show of Brazilian

baroque objects including religious and sacred art from San Paulo. Unbeknownst to anyone, some of the wood objects carried subterranean termites that surfaced with the change of climate between San Paulo and Washington.

"We had to fumigate the whole building with a chemical that would kill human beings in 20 seconds," she says. "The building was closed 24 hours for the fumigation and another 24 hours for things to settle."

Myette has spent more hours in the Renwick than she can count. "I've never slept here although there are some nights I think I could have," she laughs. This coming year, she and the Renwick will celebrate 25 years together. "This is what I love," she says of her job. "If I didn't love it, I wouldn't be here."



Ellen Myette

Gearing Up for the Double Anniversary

It only *seems* a long time until the end of April. Plans for the special events celebrating the double anniversary of the Renwick and the Alliance are really beginning to jell. "I hope everyone has put April 26 on their calendars," says Deena Kaplan, Chair of "A Sentimental Journey," the black-tie gala. "We promise all our guests an evening of great fun, and we hope all Alliance members will join us in toasting the Double Anniversary Celebration."

Also part of the celebration will be a first-time event based on the Alliance's long commitment to outreach and education. The "Festival of Craft Education" on April 26 and 27,

sponsored jointly by the Renwick Gallery and the James Renwick Alliance, will acquaint students, teachers, professionals, amateurs, and anyone else who is interested in learning more about crafts with the study and scholarship opportunities available throughout the United States. Current plans call for representatives of some 25 craft programs and colleges to be on hand in the Gallery's Grand Salon to describe their offerings and address individual interests.

And of course, there will be an informative symposium Saturday morning and a tour of homes and studios on Sunday.



The Alliance helps Shelley Gollust, our Executive Assistant, celebrate her special birthday.

President's Column

by Barbara Berlin



As our Double Anniversary celebration next April comes closer, I'm inspired by the smooth flow of Alliance events this fall. Hard work, devotion, and the "extra mile" have been the keys to the success of the Alliance throughout its first 14 years, and they will remain critical after we pass the 15-year milestone.

Nowhere was this ethic more in evidence than during the Caucus craft study tour to Aspen in

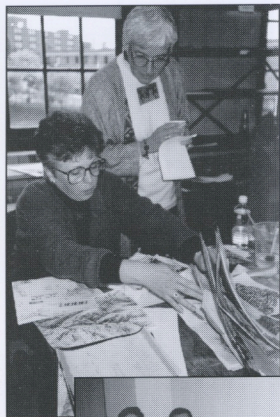


In Aspen, left to right: Brad Miller, Mollie Favour, Sid and Barbara Dickstein

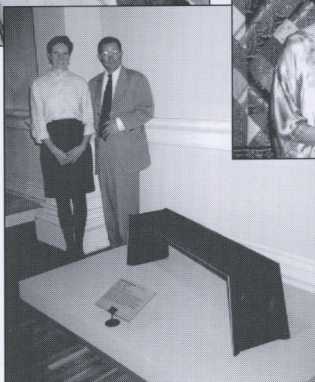
September. Barbara and Sid Dickstein, along with Susan Agger, not only combined a rich esthetic feast with flawless logistics, but also showed us both the shimmering yellow aspen leaves of fall and the year's first beautiful snowfall. Coming on the heels of this trip was the Alliance's excursion to Richmond, led by Dalene Barry. The main focus was the Fabergé

exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, but the trip found time for a visit to a private collection and a shopping stop at Dock Street. Dalene treated us to beautifully packaged home-baked goodies as well. Be sure to check Sandy Mitchell's article in this issue for information on other trips over the next year.

Back home, Gary Stevens led an ad hoc committee to develop a response to a one-time request from the National Museum of American Art for assistance in funding the reinstallation of the Renwick Gallery's permanent collection. The Board accepted the committee's recommendation that funds originally allocated for the November acquisitions meeting be used for this purpose. We strongly endorse the NMAA's commitment to rotate the objects in the collec-



Top Left: Fiber artist Barbara Lee Smith oversees her workshop. Left and above: The September 13 Openings: Ken Trapp with Kristine Madsen, one of the artists in the "Conservation by Design" exhibit, and with Patricia Smith, whose quilt collection is also on display at the Renwick.



tion—many of them funded by the Alliance—more frequently. The reinstallation will give the Gallery a space that is more versatile and accessible and will greatly facilitate its efforts to spread the word about craft art.

Elsewhere on the home front, the Alliance made its mark in two joint events, one in conjunction with the Smithsonian Women's Committee and the other with the Washington Craft Show. We held our second annual Member-Bring-a-New-Member event, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Marilyn Barrett and Arthur Mason. Mary George Kronstadt and her Workshop Committee put on four workshops this fall, with associated lectures at the Gallery sponsored jointly by the Renwick and the Alliance. Our educational outreach effort, led by Shelly Brunner and David Montague, is working this year to tie the visits of local schoolchildren more tightly to their regular curriculum.

We also had 2 membership booths, one at the Washington Craft Show, and the other at SOFA in Chicago. In addition, at SOFA, we had a reception with Ken Trapp and members and friends from around the country.

You will be dazzled by our new home page on the World Wide Web, designed by Jane Mason and her innovative committee with support from Mel and Lee Eagle and their firm, as well as by our new membership brochure, developed under the leadership of Marilyn Barrett. And our Awards Committee, chaired by Toni Gordon and John Kotelly, has provided you with a "Masters of the Media" ballot in this issue of the *Quarterly*. Please vote!

In the near future, the NMAA, the Renwick Alliance, and the Renwick Gallery will work together to create an agreement that will establish a strong working relationship between the two organizations.

Craft Weekend next April is very much in our minds. Save April 24–27, and read more about our plans elsewhere in this issue of the *Quarterly*. Thanks to Sandra Oken, the overall chair for the weekend; to Sue Bralove and Charlie Gailis, chairs of the "Festival of Craft Education"; to Deena Kaplan, chair of the "Sentimental Journey" gala; and to other important weekend chairs.

We have accomplished a great deal in the last 14 years and are looking forward to more growth and maturation as we enter our 15th year. We need and welcome your help. Come celebrate!

CERAMICS

Rudy Autio
Ralph Bacerra
Bill Daley
Stephen DeStaebler
Ruth Duckworth
Wayne Higby
Margie Hughto
Winnie Owens-Hart
Adrian Saxe
Toshiko Takaazu
Robert Turner
Peter Voulkos
Betty Woodman

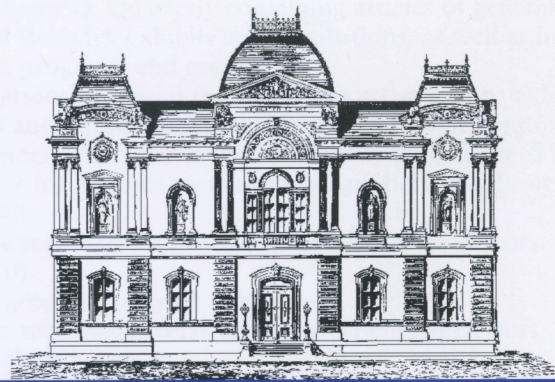
FIBER/BASKETS

Lia Cook
Michael James
Gerhardt Knodel
Jack Lenor Larsen
John McQueen
Ed Rossbach
Cynthia Schira
Kay Sekimachi
Lenore Tawney
Katherine Westphal

GLASS

William Carlson
Dale Chihuly
Dan Dailey
Fritz Dreisbach
Robert Kehlmann
Harvey Littleton
Richard Marquis
Narcissus Quagliata
Ginny Ruffner
Therman Statom
Mary Van Cline

James Renwick Alliance



Ballot for Masters of the Media

Each member of the James Renwick Alliance is entitled to vote for the recipients of the Masters of the Media Award, to be presented at the Double Anniversary Gala Dinner on Saturday, April 26, 1997. The criteria for selecting a Master in each of the five designated media categories are:

- (1) Consummate craftsmanship;
- (2) Influence in the designated media field;
- (3) Contributions to the field.

Each person nominated is a current or former member of the James Renwick Alliance Honorary Board.

Each Alliance member may vote for five of the craftspersons listed. However, you may vote for only ONE craftsperson in each category. If you cast more than one vote in a particular category, your votes in that category will not be counted. Place your votes in the spaces below. You can fold this ballot and mail it to the Alliance, or you can fax it to (301) 229-8407. All ballots must be faxed or postmarked by January 10, 1997.

Write in your votes below

Ceramics: _____

Fiber/Baskets: _____

Glass: _____

Metal/Jewelry: _____

Wood/Furniture: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

METAL/JEWELRY

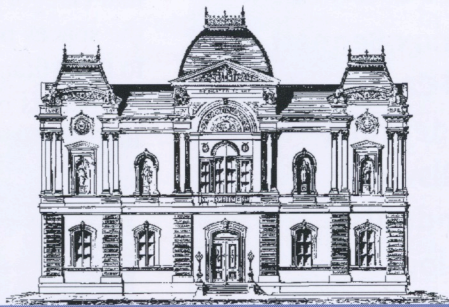
Jamie Bennett
Arline Fisch
William Harper
Mary Lee Hu
Stanley Lechtzin
Richard Mawdsley
Bruce Metcalf
Eleanor Moty
Albert Paley
John Prip
Joyce Scott

WOOD/FURNITURE

Garry Knox Bennett
Wendell Castle
John Cederquist
David Ellsworth
Mark Lindquist
Sam Maloof
Alphonse Mattia
Judy McKie
Ed Moulthrop
Wendy Maruyama
Tommy Simpson
Rosanne Somerson
Robert Stocksdale

Please fold here and tape closed at the bottom with the address showing. Thank you.

Postage
Necessary



Masters of the Media

**James Renwick Alliance
6801 Winterberry Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817**

Join the James Renwick Alliance

Membership in the Alliance gives you:

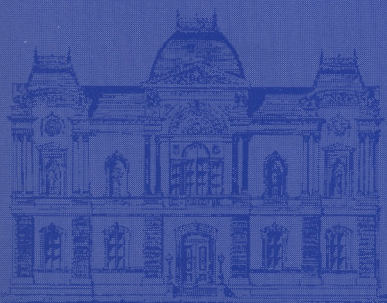
The opportunity to expand your knowledge of contemporary crafts

The excitement of supporting the national showcase for craft art at the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery

The satisfaction of helping to build the Renwick Gallery's permanent collection of America's finest craft art.

Interaction with the growing number of craft enthusiasts who participate in Alliance-sponsored activities.

*Please Detach
and Mail to:*



James Renwick Alliance
6801 Winterberry Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817

Or Fax to:
(301) 229-8407

You can join the Alliance at a variety of levels. The membership categories are:

Donors (\$100) receive:

- The Renwick Quarterly containing articles of general interest about Renwick exhibits and acquisitions, as well as information about programs and events.
- Invitations to special receptions for artists and to exhibition tours and unique trips conducted by artists or curators.

ART (Alliance for the Renwick Tomorrow) (\$70 single, \$125 double)

- ART is for Alliance members who are between the ages of 25 and 40.
- These members receive the same benefits as Donors.

Guild (\$50)

- This group is for craft artisans.
- These members receive the same benefits as Donors.

Sponsors (\$250) receive:

- Benefits listed above.
- Complimentary catalog of a major Renwick Gallery exhibit.
- One complimentary ticket to the annual Spring Symposium.

Patrons (\$500) receive:

- Benefits listed above.
- Two complimentary tickets to the annual Spring Symposium.

Craft Leaders Caucus (\$1,000 individual, \$1,250 couple) receive:

- Benefits listed above.
- Vote on acquisitions funded by the Alliance for the Renwick Gallery.
- Attend special programs during the Annual Spring Weekend.
- Participate in Caucus trips.

Benefactors (\$2,500) receive:

- Benefits listed above.
- Acknowledgment as a donor of an object in the permanent collection of the Renwick Gallery.

Silver Benefactors (\$5,000) receive:

- Benefits listed above.
- A special evening with the Renwick's Curator-in-Charge (dinner for two) and a private tour of the collection.

To join the Alliance, please complete the form below and mail it with your check, payable to the James Renwick Alliance, 6801 Winterberry Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817, Phone: (301) 229-2148, Fax: (301) 229-8407. All or most of your contribution is tax deductible.

Please select the level at which you would like to become a member.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor* (\$100+) | <input type="checkbox"/> ART* (\$70, \$125 double+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Guild* (\$50+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor** (\$250+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron ** (\$500+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader ** (\$1,000, \$1,250 couple+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor ** (\$2,500+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Benefactor *** (\$5,000+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other* (\$_____) |

* entire contribution is tax deductible ** all but \$15 is a tax deductible contribution *** all but \$115 is a tax deductible contribution + you may add an additional contribution in this category

Please write your name as you would like it to appear.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening: _____

Check one:

- Check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
- Charge my Visa/MasterCard/Discover card

Name on Card _____

Account number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Fax to: (301) 229-8407 or detach and mail to Shelley Gollust at the address listed to the left.

Renwick's Video Library

Now that the Renwick Gallery, thanks to the Alliance, is equipped with video recording equipment, it is putting many of its programs on tape—tapes that Alliance members can borrow for viewing at home. These are “real-time” videos: they have not been edited. It is as if you were there for the program.

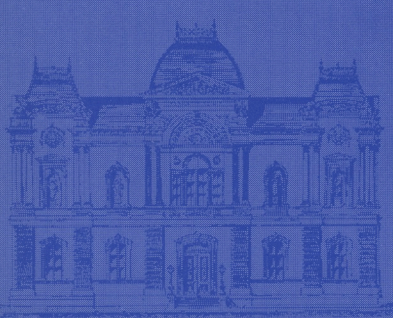
To order a video, fill out this form, sign the release, and send it with your check to Shelley Gollust, 6801 Winterberry Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817. If you want to pay by Visa, Master Card, or Discover, you can fax the completed form to Shelley at (301) 229-8407. The tape will be mailed to you with a stamped envelope in which to return it within two weeks. Questions? Call Shelley at (301) 229-2148.

Videos currently available to Alliance members:

- 1 Gallery talk on the exhibition, "Calico and Chintz: Antique Quilts from the Patricia Smith Collection", led by Curator Jeremy Adamson, September, 1996
- 2 Gallery talk on the exhibition, "Conservation by Design: Contemporary Woodworking", led by woodworker Scott Landis, September, 1996
- 3 Gallery talks on the exhibitions, "Lia Cook: Material Allusions" and "Mark Lindquist: Revolutions in Wood" led by Cook and Lindquist, March, 1996
- 4 Slide show/talk by Curator-in-Charge Ken Trapp on the Renwick Gallery's collection and its development, April, 1996
- 5 Slide show/talk by jewelry designer Sandra Sherman, October, 1996
- 6 Slide show/talk by fiber artist Barbara Lee Smith, October, 1996
- 7 Slide show/talk by ceramist Joe Bova, October, 1996
- 8 Slide show/talk by furniture designer Alphonse Mattia, November, 1996
- 9 Renwick Alliance acquisition meeting, April, 1996
- 10 Panel discussion with Renwick Gallery and NMAA staff on collecting, exhibiting, and documenting craft objects, April, 1996

You may borrow the tapes for just the cost of postage and handling (\$10 for one tape, \$17 for two). You may keep tapes for two weeks. You will be asked to sign a release stating that you will not reproduce any portion of the video in any form or by any means.

*Please Detach
and Mail to:*



James Renwick Alliance
6801 Winterberry Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817

Or Fax to:

(301) 229-8407

Please send me video(s) # _____ at \$10 each, or two for \$17.

I will return them within two weeks.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening: _____

Check one:

Check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Charge my Visa/MasterCard/Discover card.

Name on Card _____

Account number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

“I agree not to reproduce any portion of the video in any form or by any means.”

Signature _____

Fax to: (301) 229-8407 or detach and mail to Shelley Gollust at the address listed to the left.

Visitors React: Excerpts from the Comment Book *by Kenneth R. Trapp*

The following observations are taken from the Comment Book that the Renwick Gallery provides visitors to the exhibit, "Conservation by Design." Comments in these books are often amusing, sometimes angry with profanity, sometimes self-indulgent, and at times thoughtful and immediate in their response.

"The American self-image is in a chronic state of recycling. We morph. Therefore, we are."
Phil Gunsolus, Seattle, Wash.

"Enervating [sic] to the point of mental distraction."
[signature illegible]

"I must have missed the art. Once you get some, I may come back. Who funded this, the NEA?"
Jocelyn Elders [sic]
[This comment is one of several by the same individual.]

"It's a beautiful building! Perfect setting for this great art work. I give it ★★★★★!"
A friend

"It truly took every fiber of my being to control the urge to touch and sit in and handle these pieces. Extraordinary!"
Elizabeth Zogby [?]

"This has been the icing on the cake! or should I say the sap on the wood—for my 1st trip to D.C. The pieces are nothing less than magnificent and good for you that nature's defects & rejects have been transformed and given their just reward. Imaginative & thought provoking. Well done."
Cathy Donnelly
10/3/96
San Francisco, Calif.



"Conservation by Design: Contemporary Work in Wood"

"It's nice. Some of the objects are a little odd."
Christy Hutchins
13 years
Kenosha, Wisc.

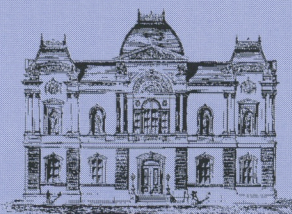
ART News

by Dan Berger

The Alliance for the Renwick Tomorrow (ART) had the honor of being the first group mentioned in a recent *Washington Post* listing of museum support organizations designed for younger people. ART is maintaining an active schedule: we participated in the "Member-Bring-a-Member" event on November 14, and on December 5 we are spending an evening at Sansar Gallery, where Veena Singh is giving a talk on the gallery's Philip Moulthrop exhibit.

For next year, ART is planning an event on January 17, and on February 23 we are organizing a trip to the Baltimore Craft Show, followed by a feast at one of Baltimore's finest crab houses. In the spring we will participate in the events celebrating the double anniversary of the Renwick and the Alliance. We also anticipate scheduling tours of private collections, other gallery events, and perhaps a workshop of our own.

Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution
Pennsylvania Ave. at 17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20560
Kenneth R. Trapp, Curator-in-Charge
Phone: (202) 357-2531 • Fax: (202) 786-2810



Renwick Gallery Programs

All programs are free to the public and will take place in the Grand Salon unless otherwise indicated.

December

1 (Sunday)

Quilt demonstration, 11 am to 3 pm.
Quilt artist Carolyn Lynch will show how she combines new and antique materials to make her quilts. (Supported by the Pearl Rappaport Kaplan Fund.)

5 (Thursday)

Video, 10 am to 3 pm (continuous).
"Hearts and Hands: A Social History of Nineteenth Century Women and their Quilts" shows how women used a sewing needle to find their own "voices" and made quilts whose beauty far outshone their utilitarian function (58 minutes).

7-8 (Saturday-Sunday)

Quilt conservation workshop, 11 am to 3 pm. Conservator Dixie Rettig will show how she cares for quilts; visitors are encouraged to bring in their quilts for advice on preservation. (Supported by the Pearl Rappaport Kaplan Fund.)

8 (Sunday)

Gallery talk, 3 pm. Renwick Curator Jeremy Adamson will discuss the exhibition, "Calico and Chintz: Antique Quilts from the Patricia Smith Collection." Please meet in the exhibit area.

12 (Thursday)

Video, 10 am to 3 pm (continuous).
"Hearts and Hands: A Social History of Nineteenth Century Women and their Quilts" shows how women used a sewing needle to find their own "voices" and made quilts whose beauty far outshone their utilitarian function (repeat of December 5, 58 minutes).

13 (Friday)

Lecture, noon. Renwick Program Coordinator Allen Bassing will give a talk entitled "Toys given for a Victorian Christmas."

15 (Sunday)

Lecture, 3 pm. Furniture maker James Rendi will discuss the history of the Windsor chair — the designs, materials, finishes, and tools used in its fabrication.

January

4-5 (Saturday-Sunday)

Craft demonstration, 11 am to 3 pm.
Designer and woodworker Terry Lewis will show the tools and techniques he uses for the restoration of antique furniture. (Supported by the Pearl Rappaport Kaplan Fund.)

5 (Sunday)

Lecture, 3 pm. Gillian Moss, Assistant Curator of Textiles, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York City, will give a talk entitled, "Pattern by the Yard: The Fabric of Quilmakers' Lives" (rescheduled from November 17).

9 (Thursday)

Video, 10 am to 3 pm (continuous).
"Furniture to Go." Combining humor with information on furniture restoration techniques, the video gives step-by-step instructions on how to transform basement relics and auction bargains into beautiful furniture. (60 minutes; supported by the Discovery Channel.)

9 (Thursday)

Gallery talk and panel discussion, 6 to 9 pm. Yuriy Buhun, executive director of the Good Wood Alliance, will lead a tour of the exhibition, "Conservation by Design." This will be followed by a panel discussion featuring environmentalists, ecologists, and tropical rain forest specialists and moderated by Buhun, on the topic, "Mahogany: Lightning Rod of the Tropical Rain Forest."

10 (Friday)

Lecture, noon. Renwick Program Coordinator Allen Bassing will discuss "Cloth and Costume of Eighteenth-Century America": the use of taffeta, silk, satin, and brocade as popular materials for the merchant class of the East Coast.

12 (Sunday)

Lecture, 3 pm. Douglas MacCleery, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, will give a talk entitled "What on Earth Have We Done: The American Forest from Pre-Colonial Settlement to the Present." (Supported by the Good Wood Alliance.)

23 (Thursday)

Video, 10 am to 3 pm (continuous).
"Furniture to Go." Combining humor with information on furniture restoration techniques, the video gives step-by-step instructions on how to transform basement relics and auction bargains into beautiful furniture. (repeat of January 9, 60 minutes; supported by the Discovery Channel)

24 (Friday)

Gallery talk, noon. In celebration of the Renwick Gallery's 25th anniversary, Renwick Program Coordinator Allen Bassing will lead a historical tour of the building.

February

13 (Thursday)

"Festival of Claymation," a hilarious compilation of the best of the short clay-animated films from Will Vinton Productions. Hosted by two battling dinosaur film critics, who will introduce each segment.

14 (Friday)

Lecture, noon. Mirisa Keller, Archivist for the Corcoran Gallery, will discuss the early life of William Wilson Corcoran, who built the building that now houses the Renwick Gallery. She will talk about his early years as a businessman in Georgetown, up to the time of the founding of the Corcoran Gallery and the Riggs Bank. This is the first of a three-part series; it is part of the Renwick Gallery's 25th-anniversary celebration. (Supported by the Corcoran Gallery of Art)

21 (Friday)

Lecture, noon. Renwick Program Coordinator Allen Bassing will continue his salute to the Renwick's 25th anniversary with a talk and slide show on how the building was designed and built, and how it has been used over the years.

27 (Thursday)

"Festival of Claymation," a hilarious compilation of the best of the short clay-animated films from Will Vinton Productions. Hosted by two battling dinosaur film critics, who will introduce each segment. (Repeat of February 13.)

28 (Friday)

Exhibition tour, noon. Renwick Program Coordinator Allen Bassing will talk about the Renwick's permanent collection. Please meet in the lobby.

Did You Know?

by Allen Bassing

- The Smithsonian Institution's art collection was housed in what is now the Renwick Gallery building from 1865 to 1896, after a fire destroyed the Picture Gallery in the Smithsonian Castle.
- Three pieces in the Renwick's collection are marvels of *trompe l'oeil*:
 - Richard Shaw's "Carrie," an assemblage of what appear to be containers, pieces of wood, and a book, all made from porcelain clay.
 - John Cederquist's "Ghost Boy," an apparently two-dimensional piece of veneered and painted wood that impersonates a three-dimensional, partly uncrated 18th-century desk, while it also functions as a real chest of drawers.
- Wendell Castle's "Ghost Clock": what appears to be a grandfather clock covered with a sheet that is tied in place with a string — all carved out of one piece of bleached mahogany.
- James Renwick, architect for the building that houses the Renwick Gallery, based his Second Empire design on the Louvre in Paris.

Alliance Members Aid Library Upgrade

by John Kotelly

The Library in the basement of the Renwick Gallery has recently been refurbished with the help of several Renwick Alliance Board members. The Library is used for scholarly research by the Smithsonian staff, Renwick Fellows, and other professionals. With new carpeting and bookshelves, it will be a more pleasant place to work.

Board members who contributed to the purchase of supplies for the shelving and labeling of periodicals were Barbara and Arnold Berlin, Phil Brown, Virginia Friend, Toni Gordon, Mary and Jim Hartzler, Shirley Jacobs, Deena Kaplan, John Kotelly, Mary George Kronstadt, Arthur Mason, Sandra Oken, and Penny Pagano.

Designing December

The Alliance is one of the organizations being honored by the Washington Design Center at a party at the Center, 300 D St. S.W., on December 12 from 5:30–8:30. The Center wishes to recognize the growing place of crafts in the home. The Design House will be open, incorporating the work of a committee of designers, and the participating showrooms will be open. Celebrity authors will be in attendance to sign books. A silent auction of Christmas gift items, including items supplied by Alliance members, will be a feature of what should be a very entertaining evening. Refreshments supplied by many of the best Washington restaurants will be served. Written invitations will be received by Alliance members in the Washington D.C. area. If you are from out of town and plan to be in the area, and wish to attend this event, please call Shelley Gollust at (301) 229-2148. The ticket price is \$35 per person and the Alliance will participate in the net proceeds of the event.

James Renwick Alliance and Related Events 1996–97

Dates are current as of November 1996

December 1996

- 5 ART group event featuring works by Philip Moulthrop and remarks by Veena Singh. 6–9 pm, Sansar Gallery
- 12 "Art and Entertaining for the Holidays" 5:30–8:30 p.m., The Washington Design Center.

January 1997

- 11 Alliance Craft Study Tour to Eastern Shore, Md.

February 1997

- 18–20 Baltimore Craft Show (wholesale)
- 21–23 Baltimore Craft Show (retail)
- 20–23 Friends of Fiber Art International Fiber Art Weekend, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 23 ART group "Craft 'n' Crabs" in Baltimore
- 28–3 Craft Leaders Caucus Florida Island Retreat (Feb. 28–March 3)

March 1997

- 3–6 Craft Leaders Caucus Craft Study Tour to Florida
- 6–9 SOFA in Miami
- 13 "Renwick Gallery at 25" exhibition opens

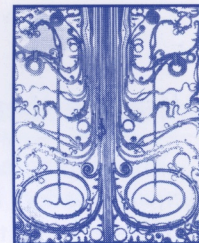
April 1997

- 23 Smithsonian Craft Show Opening (by invitation)
- 24–27 Smithsonian Craft Show
- 24–27 Craft Leaders Caucus Weekend in Washington
- 25 "Festival of Craft Education" Opening (by invitation)
- 26 Double Anniversary Celebration Mayflower Hotel
- 26–27 Craft Weekend in Washington
- 26–27 "Festival of Craft Education" Renwick Gallery Grand Salon

May 1997

- 18 Alliance Craft Study Tour to Frederick, Md.

James
Renwick
Alliance
6801 Winterberry Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817



The James Renwick Award: "Masters of the Media"

by John Kotelly

In celebration of the James Renwick Alliance's fifteenth anniversary and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Renwick Gallery, the Alliance has created five awards, to be given every other year beginning in 1997. The awards, to be presented during the Spring Craft Weekend, will be given to craft artists who are recognized as Masters of the Media. A Master will be selected in each of five categories: Ceramics, Fiber/Baskets, Glass, Metal/Jewelry, and Wood/Furniture. Criteria for the award are

1. Consummate craftsmanship.
2. Influence in the designated media field.
3. Contributions to the craft field.
4. Current or past membership on the James Renwick Alliance Honorary Board.

The Masters will be elected by the members of the James Renwick Alliance, with each member voting for one person in each of the five categories.

At the gala dinner during Spring Craft Weekend, each craftsperson elected as a Master of the Media will receive an award recognizing him or her as having demonstrated outstanding ability as a craft artist. In addition, the Alliance will make a \$1,000 cash donation to the scholarship program of a craft school designated by each Master.

A ballot for the Masters of the Media Awards to be presented at the Double Anniversary Gala on April 26, 1997, is enclosed with this issue of the *Quarterly*. All James Renwick Alliance members are urged to cast their vote. Ballots must be postmarked by January 10, 1997.