



THE QUARTERLY spring 09

THE JAMES RENWICK ALLIANCE



Chris Gustin
Vessel With Fold, 2008

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The Quarterly is published four 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 Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, 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.

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JRA BOARD MEETINGS

Monday, May 11, 2009

Monday, June 8, 2009

Miriam Rosenthal



from the president...

A new page has been turned with the Inauguration of Barack Obama. Our economies, personal, national and world are challenged in ways not seen in most of our lifetimes. These challenges are especially difficult for not-for-profits. I want to thank you for your loyal support of the James Renwick Alliance. Membership renewals are doing well. The Alliance is its members, and we need your continued support to ensure our forward movement. If you have not already renewed your membership, please do so promptly when you receive your second renewal letter, and try to find a friend who will become a new member of the Alliance. If we are to succeed in these belt-tightening times, we need to expand our membership.

This eight-page printed issue of *The Quarterly*, SPRING 2009, has been mailed to all members, libraries, and other craft support organizations and publications. This abbreviated printed version will be printed once a year and will be used to market the James Renwick Alliance membership at SOFA exhibitions, craft fairs and other public programs. For the complete WINTER 2008–2009 edition of *The Quarterly*, please refer to the JRA web site at www.jra.org. Or call the JRA office at 301 907-3888 for instructions. Please pass on your comments about this format and what you would like to see in the future.

The first annual CraftWeek DC, organized by the JRA, takes place April 22–26. A citywide celebration of crafts in our nation's capital, each day offers activities focused on every craft medium from ceramics, fiber, glass, metal to wood, and includes exhibits, artist demonstrations, gallery receptions, lectures, plus other activities. D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty has declared April 22–26 as CraftWeek DC.

Last but not least, Spring Craft Weekend, the major fund raising event of the year, begins on Thursday, April 23 and ends on Sunday, April 26. The five Masters of the Medium will be attending events, offering a perfect time for members to meet five of the most outstanding artists in the country, if not the world. And JRA needs the presence of all its members at as many of the Weekend events as you can squeeze into your schedule. Invitations will be mailed out in mid-March.

So jump on board and support these JRA events. For a complete schedule of the SCW Weekend, please visit our website, click on Spring Craft Weekend, or call the JRA office, 301 907-3888.

Anne Mehringer
PRESIDENT

**ON THE COVER**

Chris Gustin's ceramic, *Vessel with Fold, 2008* will be in the auctions on Saturday, April 25, during the Gala. Photograph by Dean Powell.

HAPPENINGS...

save the date!

Smithsonian Craft Show April 23 – 26

The 27th Annual Smithsonian Craft Show will take place April 23–26 at the National Building Museum, and the proceeds from the craft show will carry on Smithsonian's mission by supporting education, outreach and research projects through grants disseminated within the Smithsonian Institution. A total of 120 artists or partnerships have been juried into this year's show and were selected from over 1,300 applications.

Walking Tour of Galleries May 2

Put May 2 on your calendars for a walking tour of the galleries along 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Larry Hawk, who just took over the study tours for the general membership, is the tour leader and will have more information about this exciting afternoon later this spring.

**Renwick Craft Invitational 2009
August 7, 2009 – January 3, 2010**

The Renwick Craft Invitational 2009 is the fourth in a biennial exhibition series, established in 2000, which honors the creativity and talent of craft artists working today. The exhibition will feature the work of ceramic artist Christyl Boger, fiber artist Mark Newport, glass artist Mary Van Cline and ceramic artist Sun Koo Yuh. More information will be available later this spring and summer.

**New England in All Its Fall Glory...Fall Craft Leaders
Caucus Study Tour September 24 – 27**

Nancy Schneider is working very hard to put together a Craft Leaders Caucus study tour to parts of New England September 24–27. The group will visit Cape Cod, Nantucket and revisit some of the artists in Providence from the previous trip and many new ones as well. More information will be available later this year.

November 28 is JRA Day

The James Renwick Alliance Board of Directors approved the second JRA Day at its January meeting, and the date has been set for Saturday, November 28, at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase. Any member who wishes to participate on the Planning Committee, please contact the JRA office at admin@jra.org or call 301 907-3888.

Mayor Proclaims CraftWeek DC April 22 – 26

The first annual CraftWeek DC, organized by the JRA, takes place April 22–26. A citywide celebration of crafts in the nation's capital, each day offers activities focused on every craft medium from ceramics, fiber, glass, metal to wood, and includes exhibits, artist demonstrations, gallery receptions, lectures, plus other activities. CraftWeek DC is a unique opportunity to see studio crafts at their best and meet the makers, from internationally recognized artists to up-and-coming artists exhibiting for the first time at the Smithsonian Craft Show. Events celebrate as well, the growing community of artists and galleries in the Washington, D.C. area involved in creating and showing sculptural and functional objects. Many events are free and open to the public. See www.craftweekdc.com for the full schedule.

DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS SERIES

Nol Putnam, Blacksmith April 4 – 5

Nol Putnam's demonstration on Saturday, April 4 will take place at a working forge in Arlington and will show parts of the entire process from concept to sketches, to drawings, to the completion of a piece.

Nol will lecture and show slides of his own work from 1973 to the present at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 5, in the Grand Salon of the Renwick Gallery. In conjunction with the Renwick's show featuring the work of Greene and Greene architects, which features ornamental ironwork, Nol's talk will also be interspersed with historical references to some of the great Arts and Craft figures from Scotland, England and the United States.

**Garry Knox Bennett,
Furniture Maker June 6 – 7**

Garry Knox Bennett, internationally renowned mixed media furniture maker, will give his workshop in June in conjunction with a traveling show at American University's Katzen Center where a superb collection of his work, showing his irrepressible sense of humor and adventure, will be on display for the summer months.

The Bennett workshop will be held on Sunday, June 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Katzen Center of American University. The official opening of his exhibition will be on Saturday, June 6. Two events take place on Saturday, June 6: a one-hour slide presentation about making lamps at 2 p.m. and a 3 p.m. walk-through of the chair exhibition with Garry. JRA members will receive more information on this program later this spring. And remember, the itinerary is subject to change.

This chair from Garry Knox Bennett's "Z" series will be in the auctions during the Gala.



SOFA EXHIBITIONS NYC, SANTA FE

SOFA New York opens on Thursday, April 16 and continues until Sunday, April 19. In addition, a new SOFA will open its doors in Santa Fe, NM, June 11–14. Events for JRA members will be announced later this month.

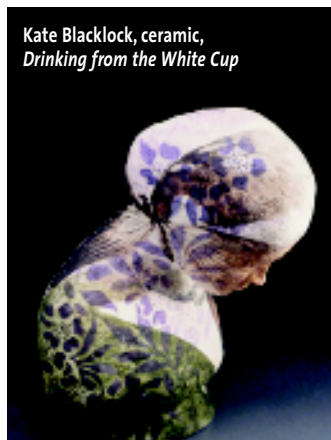
Register for SOFA: Just a quick reminder that the VIP link for the James Renwick Alliance to attend SOFA New York is up and running! You can register for SOFA New York, SOFA WEST: Santa Fe, and SOFA Chicago by visiting www.sofaexpo.com/jravip. Don't forget to check www.sofaexpo.com/salon/index.htm for exclusive VIP programming—a complete schedule will be posted in March!

CRAFTS AROUND DC:

A Capital Celebration



Karl Fritsch, ring, oxidized silver and untitled



Kate Blacklock, ceramic, *Drinking from the White Cup*

Weekend patrons pay from \$1,850 to \$5,000 to attend all five of the events of Spring Craft Weekend from Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26; however, there is a price just right for every member of the James Renwick Alliance.

The Caucus Day event for Craft Leaders Caucus members, on Friday, April 24 from 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., is only \$85. The symposium on Saturday, April 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is free to all members and the public. The gala and live and silent auctions, Saturday, April 25, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., cost \$295 a person or \$250 each for those under age 40.

The brunch on Sunday, April 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., honoring Lloyd Herman and the Masters of the Medium, is only \$90, and parking for those who choose to drive is free.

“So pick your price, and join other JRA members for the major fund raising event of the year,” Brigitte Savage and Barbara Bennett, co-chairs say. “The goal of \$125,000 from this evening can be reached only with a wide participation of 272 people,” they emphasized. Here’s how the weekend sizes up, beginning Thursday night, April 23.



Tim Tate, glass, *The Conversation*

ALL OF THE WORK PICTURED HERE WILL BE IN EITHER THE LIVE OR SILENT AUCTIONS ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE GALA.

CRAFTS AROUND DC: A CAPITAL

James Renwick Alliance Events: Spring Craft Weekend
Special guests at all events: Lloyd Herman and the Masters of the Medium

Thursday, April 23

GEORGETOWN GALLERY VISITS 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Open to all JRA members. No charge.

CROSS MACKENZIE CERAMICS ARTS, Rebecca Cross
 1054 31st Street, N.W., Washington D.C., 202 333-7970

JEWELERS’ WERK GALERIE, Ellen Reiben
 3319 Cady’s Alley, N.W. Washington, D.C., 202 337-3319

MAURINE LITTLETON GALLERY, Maurine Littleton,
 1667 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 202 333-9307

Friday, April 24

CAUCUS DAY 9:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

*Open only to Craft Leaders Caucus members and Weekend Patrons.
 \$85 per person. No charge for Weekend Patrons.*

9 a.m. Meet the bus at the Mayflower Hotel. Parking garage, taxis and Metro available.

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon. Revisiting Ben and Gisela Huberman’s Collection, Smithsonian Freer Museum for Korean Ceramics Gallery, and a talk on Korean utilitarian ceramics.

12 noon. Republic of Korea Embassy at the Korus House:
 A fabulous Korean style lunch
 Exhibit: Korean Contemporary Metal and Art Jewelry, presented by HauteClass Gallery, Seoul
 Komelia Okim talk: “Korean Craft: 30 Working Artists”
 Lisa Vershbow talk: “Art and Diplomacy”

2:30 p.m. Depart for the Mayflower Hotel.

STUDIO DEMONSTRATIONS 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Open to all JRA members and the public. No charge. Free parking.

How We Make Our Art: Demonstrations at Gateway Arts Community, 3700 Otis Street, Mt. Rainier, MD.

Featured studios and artists are:

RED DIRT STUDIOS: Margaret Boozer, Kate Hardy and Jenna McCracken, ceramics demonstrations.

FLUX STUDIOS: Novie Trump and Laurel Lukaszewski, ceramics demonstrations.

BLUE FIRE STUDIO: Robert Devers and Tamara Laird, ceramics demonstrations. Exhibition: Corcoran College of Art + Design ceramics and jewelry faculty members.

WASHINGTON GLASS SCHOOL: Tim Tate, Michael Janis, Erwin Timmers and Elizabeth Ryland Mears.

PATRONS EVENING 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Open only to Weekend Patrons. Free parking.

Gateway Arts Community, 3700 Otis Street, Mt. Rainier, MD.

Red Dirt Studio: Reception and Snacks

Washington Glass School: Venetian Carnivale and Dinner

Flux Studios: Dessert and Coffee/Tea.

Tim Tate will work on an interactive video of patrons at the event which will then be added to a glass globe he is donating for the auction. The presence of all five Masters of the Medium will make the evening even more special.

Dress: Masks and creative attire.

Saturday, April 25

SYMPOSIUM 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Open to the public. No charge.

Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium, Smithsonian American Art Museum, 7th at F and G Streets, NW, Washington, DC

“Celebrating My Life in Craft” presentations by each of the Masters of the Medium: June Schwarcz, *metal*; Norma Minkowitz, *fiber*; David Ellsworth, *wood*; Warren Mackenzie, *ceramics*; Richard Marquis, *glass*; Michael Monroe, *moderator*.

GALA, LIVE/SILENT AUCTIONS, DANCING, MUSIC 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Open to all JRA members and public ticket holders.

Cost of the evening is \$295 per person, \$250 for those under age 40, and no charge for Weekend Patrons.

Valet parking is offered at \$15 per car at the G Street entrance only.

Kogod Courtyard, Smithsonian American Art Museum
8th and G Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Entrance and Valet Parking on G Street only.

AWAKEN YOUR SENSES

7 p.m. Libations and Silent Auction, up to 40 objects

8 p.m. Dinner and Live Auction, 10–15 objects, curated by Lloyd Herman and commentary by Michael Monroe

Dessert, Music and Dancing

Dress: Black tie accented by artful jewelry.

SEE exciting and unique auction items

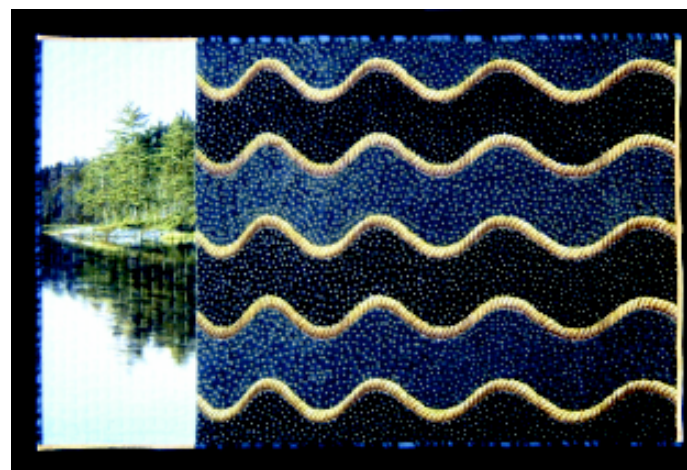
FEEL the warmth of friendship and camaraderie

SMELL the aroma and TASTE delicious food

HEAR and dance to the fabulous musical sounds.



Matt Dutton, small walnut table, untitled



Gayle Fraas and Duncan Slade, fiber, *My Beautiful Picture*

Sunday, April 26

AWARDS BRUNCH 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Open to all JRA members and public ticket holders.

\$90 per person, no charge for Weekend Patrons.

Free parking.

Marriott at Tysons Corner

Brunch

Presentations:

- One-of-a-Kind Award to Lloyd Herman
- Masters of the Medium Awards

PENLAND PERSPECTIVE 1:30 p.m.

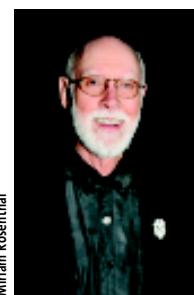
Open to all JRA members. No charge.

Perspective: Penland School of Crafts Artists Exhibition
Habatat Galleries, Virginia

Gallery and Exhibition open

Presentations:

- Tommie Rush
- Richard Jolley



Miriam Rosenthal

Lloyd Herman

Schedule at a Glance...

CRAFTS AROUND DC: A CAPITAL CELEBRATION

Thursday, April 23 (one event)

GEORGETOWN GALLERY VISITS 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday, April 24 (three events)

CAUCUS DAY 9:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

STUDIO DEMONSTRATIONS 10 a.m. – 12 noon

PATRONS EVENING 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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GALA, LIVE/SILENT AUCTIONS, DANCING, MUSIC 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Sunday, April 26 (two events)

AWARDS BRUNCH 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PENLAND PERSPECTIVE 1:30 p.m.

JRA HONORS

Masters of the Medium

Five important artists will be honored at the brunch on Sunday, April 26, at 10:30 a.m. during Spring Craft Weekend. All five, even June Schwarcz at 90 years of age, will be available to talk with JRA members. The profiles on these two pages demonstrate their immense sense of creativity and how they feel about their work—or how their friends, gallery owners and patrons feel about their contributions to the world of craft. The artists are: June Schwarcz, *metal/enameling*; Norma Minkowitz, *fiber art*; David Ellsworth, *wood turning*; Warren Mackenzie, *functional ceramics*; and Richard Marquis, *glass*. They will be attending many of the events over the weekend, and they will be formally recognized at the Sunday brunch which Marilyn Barrett and Paul Parkman are arranging at the Marriott at Tysons Corner.

June Schwarcz

Enamelist Genius

“At 90 years old, June Schwarcz, enamelist, is happiest when creating her art in the studio and still works nearly every day. June’s generosity with her time and knowledge has been a joy to so many working in



Jaymie Scott

the field today. Some of the best known artists have spent time working with June in her workshop and all come away inspired by her continuous invention and hard-working habits. Although small in stature, she is a giant in our field. In addition to creating her own work, she is an enthusiastic collector of other artists’ work, and her beautiful home perched on a hillside overlooking San Francisco Bay is a veritable museum of ethnic art and contemporary craft.”

—Michael Holmes
co-owner, Velvet Da Vinci Gallery,
San Francisco.

June Schwarcz,
enameled vessel, untitled

Norma Minkowitz

Fiber Master

Fiber artist Norma Minkowitz crochets and works with fiber, hog gut and found objects using the body as inspiration. The transparent openness of these materials allows her to continue her focus on manipulating fiber and skin into personal and psychological statements, that both enclose and expose a mysteriousness that invites serious contemplation.

Norma Minkowitz,
fiber, *Root*

Shelly Minkowitz



ALL OF THE WORK PICTURED HERE WILL BE IN EITHER THE LIVE OR SILENT AUCTIONS ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE GALA.



David Ellsworth

Master Wood Turner

Turned wood artist David Ellsworth translates thoughts into form and creates singular statements that evolve through the integration of the material of wood with the

process of turning. He works in series in which he can explore ideas, challenge concepts and expand the dimension of his work into a broad visual language. He considers the skill of his craft to be the foundation from which his work has evolved, and the identity of each object is a glimmer of the collective body of his life's work.

David Ellsworth, turned wood, *Homage Pot*



Warren Mackenzie, ceramic large platter, untitled



Warren Mackenzie

Master Functional Potter

American pioneer studio potter and teacher Warren Mackenzie went to Britain in 1949 to study pottery with Bernard Leach, who had a great influence on his philosophy towards ceramics as did Japanese ceramists Shoji Hamada and Soetsu Yanagi. Mackenzie believes that pottery should be utilitarian and not art-oriented and following that maxim has tried to keep his prices low. His traditional, wheel-thrown stoneware vessels are simply glazed and reduction-fired, following the oriental aesthetic. Mackenzie taught at the University of Minnesota from 1952 and is now professor emeritus. He continues to make work at his studio in Stillwater, MN. Mackenzie celebrated his 85th birthday in February.



Richard Marquis

Glass Magician

Richard Marquis has had an extraordinary influence on the development of contemporary studio glass in America and around the world. Marquis went to the island of Murano, near Venice, to observe and work with the masters of a glassblowing tradition acknowledged as the best in the world. The effect of Venetian glassblowing techniques enabled him, as a glass artist, to expand technical vocabularies and, combined with new and experimental approaches, led to the redefinition of glass as an artistic medium. That is the story of Richard Marquis and Venetian glass, American style.

Richard Marquis, glass, *Dick's Works*





Lisa Vershbow and her husband Ambassador Alexander Vershbow in the garden of their Hanek with the sculpture of American ceramist Jun Kaneko, *Untitled Dango*.

A TALK ON ART AND DIPLOMACY ON CAUCUS DAY

Lisa Vershbow, craft artist and metalsmith, has been traveling around the world with her diplomat husband, Alexander Vershbow, for the past 32 years. During her husband's three ambassadorial postings to NATO—Brussels, Moscow and, most recently, Seoul (*see photo at left*), she continued to work as an artist in her own right while playing an active role as the ambassador's spouse.

Lisa worked through the embassy's public outreach programs to speak to students and art groups all over the country, combining her own creative activities with an equal enthusiasm for promoting American crafts through the State Department's Art in Embassies Program. Using a series of slide images of Korea and of her own art work, Lisa will share her experiences through her talk, "Art and Diplomacy" on Friday, April 24, Caucus Day.

CAUCUS STUDY TOUR TO SOUTH KOREA

The Craft Leaders Caucus study tour to South Korea still has some openings. Clemmer Montague, tour leader, will take reservations as long as she can confirm a hotel room. Dates are arriving in Seoul on May 25 and departing on June 4. Programming will begin on May 26. For more information, see www.jra.org or call Sarah Frey at 301 907-3888.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REQUESTS

Memberships for the calendar year 2008 expired on December 31, and the second renewal letters have gone out asking members to consider remaining members. "We have received 272 membership renewals as of March 4 for a total of a 70% renewal rate. That includes 14 new members," Sarah Frey, program assistant, said.

CAUCUS MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTS

The Quarterly has been listing Benefactor and Caucus members for the past several issues to encourage participation in Caucus programs and upgrades to this level. We spotlight unsung members who have been very good supporters of the Caucus for a long time and who upgraded to Caucus. **Stephen and Myra Kurzbard** joined the Alliance in 1997, took part in many events and trips, and upgraded their membership to Caucus level in 2008. They have their name on the plaque in the Renwick Gallery, are invited on Caucus domestic and international trips and vote on acquisitions for the Renwick Gallery funded by JRA. So thank you for your continued support as Caucus members.

THE ART AND CRAFT OF GREENE & GREENE March 13 – June 7, 2009

The opening reception for the Renwick Gallery's presentation of "The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene" was the evening of March 12. The exhibition opened to the public on March 13. Related exhibition programs associated with "The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene" at the Renwick Gallery are listed below.

Friday, March 13, 12 noon. "A New and Native Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene," co-curators Edward Bosley and Anne Mallek, both of The Gamble House.

Thursday, March 26, 12 noon. "Collecting Greene & Greene" by Joseph Cunningham, curator of the American Decorative Art 1900 Foundation.

Sunday, April 5, 3 p.m. James Renwick Alliance Distinguished Lecture Series: The Ironwork of Nol Putnam. Artist Nol Putnam, specialist in architectural-scale ironwork, has produced three gates for the Washington National Cathedral. (*See also page 3.*)

Wednesday, May 6, 12 noon. Gallery Talks

Wednesday, May 20, 12 noon. Gallery Talks

Renwick Gallery Chief Robyn Kennedy and Curatorial Associate Nicholas Bell.

Saturday June 6 and Sunday, June 7, 3 p.m. "Legends of Vaudeville." Recapture the age of the Arts and Crafts movement with live music and comedy performances from the early 1900s.



Donna Sicklesmith-Anderson, who has been designing publications for the non-profit world for almost 30 years, is the new designer for the JRA *Quarterly*. Donna has designed publications for the Washington Opera, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and she has creditable ideas on how to update and make *The Quarterly* more accessible to all members whether it be online or printed. Donna also manages her husband's pet photography business. To see samples of their work, visit, www.photolee.com.