

RINGLING MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER

MUSEUM OF ART ASOLO THEATER CA' D' ZAN CIRCUS MUSEUM



SEPTEMBER 1974

FALL EXHIBITIONS

THE USF, COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION organized by the curatorial department of the Ringling Museum of Art will open Oct. 3 at 8:00 p.m. in the New Wing Galleries with a members' preview and reception.

A feature of opening night will be two showings of films by University of South Florida faculty film makers Will Hindle, Charles Lyman and Stan Vanderbeek in the Asolo Theater at 8 and 9 p.m.

Included in the exhibition are paintings, sculpture and prints by faculty members, the work of artists participating in the University of South Florida experimental graphics workshop, "Graphicstudio," and contemporary prints from "Art Bank," USF's program of circulating exhibitions operated on campus by the Florida Center for the Arts. The exhibition will be displayed through Nov. 17.

THE SYD SOLOMON EXHIBITION, a retrospective showing of approximately 60 works by the well-known Florida artist, will open on Dec. 5 in the New Wing Galleries of the Ringling Museum of Art with a members' preview and reception at 8:00 p.m.

Heralded as one of the major exhibits of the year, the exhibition and catalogue were made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D. C., with the support of the Ringling Museums Members Council.

A symposium, "What About Contemporary Art?" will be held in conjunction with the exhibition on Thursday, December 12 at 8:00 p.m. in the New Wing Galleries. Distinguished panel members will be artists Syd Solomon and James Brooks, author Kurt Vonnegut and Harold Rosenberg, art critic, *New Yorker Magazine*.

Leslie Ahlander, Curator of Contemporary Art at the Ringling Museum, organized the show and wrote the catalogue. Following the showing at the Ringling Museum of Art, the exhibition will be displayed at the New York Cultural Center, Feb. 6 - March 16.

GRANT RECEIVED

It was recently announced by the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. that the Ringling Museums would receive a grant of \$47,000 to begin a long anticipated program to strengthen the



"Big Pass," by Syd Solomon

work of existing art museums within the state and to serve areas where no present arts organizations are available.

Reflecting a policy established by the Board of Trustees, this state-wide services project is a major step in making the Ringling Museums more accessible to the public. Present in-museum programs will be complimented by the new project with special exhibitions, loan programs and cooperative art events.

In the first year four Florida museums will be selected as "affiliates" and six communities will be designated for "chapters." Since public announcement of the grant, the museums have received many inquiries from individuals and groups throughout Florida who are anxious to be considered in the selection. It is anticipated that with continued funding more communities may benefit from this unique undertaking to provide greater availability to the rich and varied resources of the Ringling Museums.

SATURDAY MORNING ART CLASSES

Beginning Saturday, October 5 through November 23, the education department of the Ringling Museum of Art will offer eight sessions of art classes for young people from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. In a film making

course, "Eye Am a Camera," instructor Jay B. Starker, will show 11 to 14 year-old students how to program humorous situations and animate simple figures as well as to direct, act, film and edit their own individual short movies. Fee for all students is \$25.00.

Guest artists will be invited to participate in Martha Hyams' classes, "Artists Are People," for 8 to 11 year-olds. Students will watch demonstrations and work with the professionals in painting, sculpture and sketching in the galleries and the education department classroom.

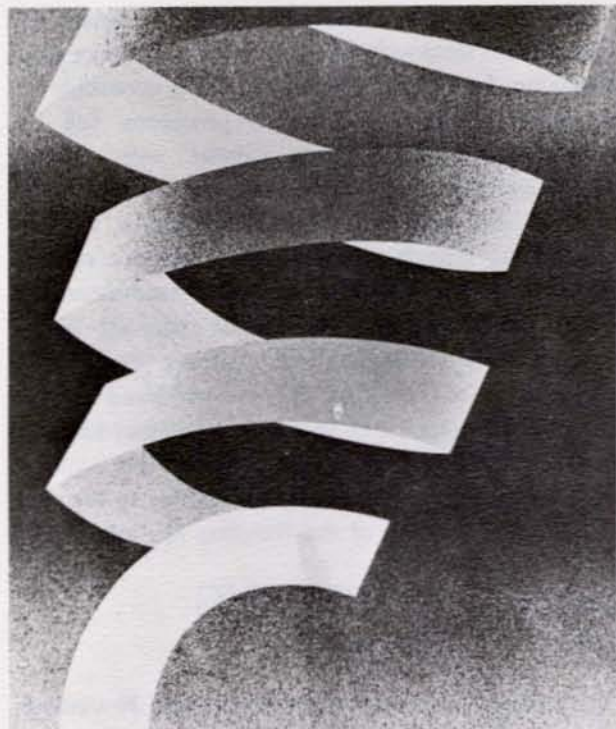
Young artists aged 6 to 8 will examine natural objects and man-made sculpture on the museum grounds in "All Around Us." Karen Schall will instruct this class in drawing, making clay sculpture, weaving and making rubbings and mobiles from natural objects.

Fees for "All Around Us" and "Artists Are People" are \$18.00 each for members and \$20.00 for non-members. Applications are available in the education department.

COFFEE HOURS

The Members Council will present the first fall "Know Your Museums" coffee hour on September 25 in the Asolo Theater at 10:30 a.m. Featured at the opening meeting will be the presentation of awards to volunteers followed by the 25-minute E. G. Marshall film, "Ca' d'Zan," from the American Lifestyle series. Refreshments will be served in the Dwarf Garden.

The coffee hours in October will be on the 16th and 23rd at 10:30 a.m. in the New Wing Galleries. The



"Water Spout," by James Rosenquist will be displayed at the USF Exhibition in the New Wing Galleries of the Ringling Museum of Art, Oct. 3 - Nov. 11.

program will be the same at both coffee hours. Leslie Ahlander, Curator of Contemporary Art, will lecture on the current exhibition from the University of South Florida and there will be two docent talks: Mrs. John Wood and Miss Jane Johnson will speak on "Walks through the Ringling Grounds;" Mrs. Jane Walsh will lead a discussion entitled, "A Rubens Treasure Hunt."

On December 18 the Members Council will celebrate a Christmas coffee hour with an open house at the Ringling Residence from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The "Know Your Museums" coffee hours were initiated to better acquaint members with the museum and its activities.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

The Ringling Museum Members Council, in recognizing the many long hours of volunteer service performed by members, for the first time will present special pins to those who have contributed a total of 2,500 hours to the Museums. Pins will also be awarded to those who have given over 500 hours in a period of five years and over 1,000 hours in 10 years. The awards will be made at the coffee hour on September 25. Volunteers donating over 100 hours in a single year will receive Certificates of Recognition. Barbara Czanyi, jewelry prize winner at the 1973 Outdoor Craft Show, designed the special pins using the Ringling seahorse motif.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Fall orientation for new volunteers will be held on Nov. 6, 13 and 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the education department. There will be three general sessions followed by specialized training in various parts of the museum complex. Experienced volunteers are invited to join the new volunteers in a review of over-all policies and procedures, and in the opportunity to meet and talk with museum staff members. The orientation is required for all new volunteers who are to meet the public and speak for the Museums.

"RENAISSANCE EVENING"

The sculpture garden courtyard in the Museum of Art will be the scene of another of the very popular courtyard benefits, "Renaissance Evening," on Sunday, October 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Dressed in Renaissance costumes, the University of Florida Singers from Gainesville, Florida, will perform a madrigal program which includes vocal and instrumental music and dance.

A buffet dinner will follow with food served during

the Renaissance period, cocktails and wine. Hostesses will be in the dress of that period and guests are also invited to attend in costume.

Limited to 500 persons, members are urged to make their reservations early. Tickets will go on sale at the first coffee hour, September 25.

Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, which is planning the event, is Mrs. J.B. Goldsmith. Mrs. William Strode is chairman for the "Renaissance Evening."

OUTDOOR CRAFT SHOW

The third annual Ringling Museum Outdoor Craft Show will attract Florida's finest craftsmen to the grounds of the Ringling Museums, November 22 through November 24, to compete for prizes, exhibit and sell their work.

Exhibitors are limited to 100 and will be juried in advance. Interested craftsmen must submit slides of their work to the selection jury by October 10. Judging of exhibits and awarding of prizes will take place on the first day of the three-day show. Mrs. Mary Nyburg of Garrison, Maryland, Chairman of Advisors, International Department of World Crafts Council, will judge the exhibits and select one for the \$500 "Best in Show" award. There will be other merit and honorable mention awards made in up to five categories.

Mrs. Clifford Meier is chairman for the event with Mrs. Newton Kent as co-chairman. The traditional "Left Bank Lunch" will be served on the grounds as well as snack bar food. Hours of the show will be Friday, 12 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 to 5 p.m. Admission to the grounds is free.

NEW MEMBERS RECEPTIONS

This year the Members Council is introducing a series of small receptions for new members to give them the opportunity to meet the Museums' staff and the Members Council officers. Personal invitations will be sent for the first reception which is scheduled for October 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Members Council Lounge. The receptions are planned for every two months.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

Effective October 1, 1974, dues for individual memberships will be increased to \$15 and family memberships to \$25. The Board of Trustees of the Ringling Museums approved the increase in July on the basis that the cost of providing membership privileges is now in excess of \$10 per person. Membership fees in the larger categories, which contribute substantially to the Museums' operation, will not change.

Contributors to the Friends Division of the Members Council receive full membership privileges. Minimum contribution to the Friends Division effective Oct. 1, 1974 will be \$250.

MUSEUMS GIFT SHOPS

The gift shops have received an array of new merchandise including Bijan sculpture, prints, Italian and Hawaiian jewelry and Florentine notepaper and enclosures.

New Christmas cards are available with a reproduction of *St. Matthew Writing The Gospel* by a Flemish follower of Caravaggio in addition to a large selection by Italian artists. At the Circus Museum gift shop there are note pads at 79¢ each, games, puzzles, toys and stuffed animals.

Imports will be limited this year. Members are advised to do their Christmas shopping early. There are attractive objects for \$1 up in all gift shops. Members receive a 10% discount with their membership cards.

DOCENT ACTIVITIES

Advanced training for all 52 members of the Docent Corps will be conducted by the education department from October 7 to 11. In the morning and afternoon sessions they will explore new methods and materials along with demonstrations of new tours, improvisational techniques, games and outdoor art workshops. Docents have been assigned to attend specific sessions along with tour escorts who participate in the workshops for fourth and sixth grade students.

Provisional docents who have been conducting tours for the previous six months will be welcomed into full membership in the Docent Corps at the November 19 meeting when they will be awarded their docent pins. Tour escorts are invited to attend the meetings as non-voting guests.

At the December 10 meeting in the New Wing Galleries Leslie Judd Ahlander, Curator of Contemporary Art, will give a talk on the *Syd Solomon Exhibition* followed by a festive Christmas tea in the education department for docents, tour escorts and the museum staff.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Former Sarasota area newsman Jim Bleyer has been named Director of Information for the Ringling Museums. Bleyer spent eight years as an editor and reporter for the Orlando Sentinel and the Tampa Tribune. For five of those years he was Sarasota Bureau Chief for the Tampa paper.

Most recently Bleyer was administrative assistant to Jim Tillman, minority leader of the Florida House of

