

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART

VIEW

SUMMER 2012



Picasso's Guernica Tapestry

2011–2012
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VIEW

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Editor
Tatiana
Herrera-Schneider
Design
Texas Creative
Photography
Greg Harrison
Justin Parr
Peggy Tenison



200 West Jones Avenue • San Antonio, Texas 78215
(210) 978-8100 • www.samuseum.org



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Tapestry

ON THE COVER
Guernica (detail)
After 1937 painting by Pablo Picasso
(Spanish 1881-1973)
Woven in 1955 by René and Jacqueline de la
Baume Dürrach
Wool tapestry
On loan from Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller, L.2011.18
© 2012 Estate of Pablo Picasso /
Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

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Gift of the artist and
Arthur Roger Gallery
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Gods of Love

Renowned works from the
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Head of Aphrodite (Bartlett Head)
Greek (Athens), late Classical or Early Hellenistic period, 330-300 BC
Marble; h. 11 5/16 in., w. 7 1/8 in., d. 9 3/4 in.
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Francis Bartlett Donation of 1900, 03.743

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Director's Letter

Hundreds of loans add
to SAMA's treasures

This is the season of shared treasures! All of SAMA is enlivened and invigorated by the addition of literally hundreds of loans to the San Antonio Collects series of exhibitions. Besides the treasures on view from local collections in our three main exhibitions, *San Antonio Collects: African American Art* (on the 3rd floor in the American department), *San Antonio Collects: Gentilz* (in the focus gallery) and *San Antonio Collects: Contemporary* (in the Cowden exhibition hall), our curators have also asked many local collectors to share works of art from their personal collections to enrich the permanent collections. Spectacular works of art from all over the world that are in private collections here in San Antonio are interwoven into the permanent galleries of the museum. Each work of art on loan to the museum is identified with a label that says *San Antonio Collects*. On your next visit, use these hidden gems as an excuse to devise your own treasure hunt.

One of the biggest treasures to arrive at SAMA this spring and summer is the exceptionally beautiful and important *Guernica Tapestry* made for Pablo Picasso in 1955. The Rockefeller Family has agreed to place their *Guernica Tapestry*, the first of three tapestries made for Picasso, at SAMA for an extended loan period.

Picasso painted his *Guernica* in response to the aerial bombing of the Basque town of *Guernica* by the German allies of the fascist rebel General Franco during the Spanish Civil War. *Guernica* masterfully depicts the horrors of war, especially the suffering

of civilians. Picasso commissioned a pair of Parisian weavers, Rene and Jacqueline de la Baune Dürrbach who had trained at the famed Aubusson workshops, to create the *Guernica Tapestry*, a direct copy of the painting. Picasso worked closely with the Dürrbach's to change the color palette of the tapestry away from the harsh grays and blacks into a softer mélange of toffees, caramels and coffee colors. Nelson Rockefeller bought the tapestry in 1955 from Picasso, and for many years it hung at the United Nations in New York City at the entrance to the Security Council as a reminder of the evils of war.

At SAMA, it is hanging in the Rockefeller wing in the The Robert J. Kleberg Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Gallery with a group of Latin American modernist paintings that are equally vocal about the perils of war. Save it for last on your treasure hunt.

If you are exhausted after looking for, and finding, so many exceptional works of art in SAMA right now, make sure to stop by the "Scene at SAMA" for a signature cocktail and cool jazz on the second Friday of every month. Remember too, that the café is open for dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings, and every Friday features a live jazz performance.

See you at SAMA!

Sincerely,

Katie

Katherine C. Luber, Ph.D.



Picasso's Guernica Tapestry

America's much celebrated family, the Rockefeller Family was once compared to the Medici of Renaissance Italy. And Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller (1908-1979) was once referred to as the "Cosimo d'Medici" of the Family, because of his life-long devotion to the arts. He served on the boards of the Met, MoMA, and other prestigious museums and, while Governor of New York, he established the New York Council for the Arts, the first of its type in the United States. Nelson Rockefeller, like other members of his family, was passionately involved in the visual arts and

actively collected art throughout his life. His tastes were focused in three areas: "primitive" art, modern art, and Mexican folk art. Most of Rockefeller's "primitive" collection was given or bequeathed to the Met and is now housed in the Michael C. Rockefeller Wing, named after Nelson's son who was lost in New Guinea. His modern collection was given or bequeathed to Kykuit, the family estate in North Tarrytown, NY and to New York City's Museum of Modern Art, founded by Nelson's mother Abby Aldridge Rockefeller. The majority of his Mexican folk art collection was given to the San Antonio Museum of

Guernica
After 1937 painting by Pablo
Picasso (Spanish 1881-1973)
Woven in 1955 by René and
Jacqueline de la Baume
Dürbach
Wool tapestry
On loan from
Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller
L2011.18
© 2012 Estate of Pablo
Picasso / Artists Rights
Society (ARS), New York



Art by his oldest daughter Ann Rockefeller Roberts and the collection is now located in SAMA's Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art. While his Mexican collection was among his earliest and most cherished art collections, Rockefeller also had a strong passion for the work of European pioneers of modern art, such as Braque, Leger, Picasso, Matisse, Kandinsky, Gris, and others. Picasso was clearly Rockefeller's favorite.

"Of all of them, Picasso was always my favorite. His restless vitality and constant search for powerful new forms of expression, combined with his superb craftsmanship and sense of color and composition, have remained an unending source of joy and satisfaction to me."

(Masterpieces of Modern Art: The Nelson A. Rockefeller Collection (1981), p. 16. New York: Hudson Hills Press.)

Nelson Rockefeller acquired many important paintings and drawings by Picasso, most of which were donated or bequeathed to MoMA. In the mid-1950s, Rockefeller learned that a tapestry had been created of *Guernica*, one of Picasso's most important works and one of the most iconic and powerful paintings of the 20th century. Rockefeller acquired it. Because of SAMA's close relationship with the Rockefeller Family, the tapestry has been loaned to our museum for all to see and ponder.

Guernica: The Painting

In April of 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, German war planes, in support of the Nationalist forces of Generalissimo Francisco Franco, bombed the small Basque town of Guernica. It was the first time aerial bombing had been systematically used against a non-combatant, civilian population. The town burned for three days, and 1,600 civilians were killed or wounded.

Pablo Picasso (Spanish, 1883-1973), one of the great artists of the 20th century, was living in Paris at the time of the Guernica attack. He was horrified by the bombing, and, shortly afterwards, began working on *Guernica* for the Spanish Pavilion of the 1937 World's Fair in Paris. Painted in black and white with shades of gray and measuring over 25 feet long, this powerful cubist work incorporates haunting images of writhing women, children, animals, and destroyed buildings (many aflame) swirling around two central figures, a horse and a bull, Spain's most enduring iconic symbols. For many at the time, this painting represented a loud cry of protest against the brutal attack on civilians. Subsequent generations worldwide now see it as a powerful universal expression of the atrocities of war.

To bring attention to the Spanish Civil War, the painting was sent on tour in 1939 to Scandinavia, Great Britain, Brazil, and various venues in the United States. It came

to rest at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where it remained for over 30 years. Franco died in 1975, and the *Guernica* painting returned to Spain after the dictator's death, as Picasso had directed in his will. It was hung in the Prado, Spain's greatest museum, and because passions about the civil war were still deep, the painting was installed well behind bullet-proof glass and flanked by security guards. Later, it moved to the Museo Reina Sofia, Spain's most important 20th century art museum, where it resides today.

Guernica is one of the most important paintings of the modern era and is visited by millions of people each year. All who view it are free to offer their own interpretations about this provocative work of art, just as Picasso had wanted.

Guernica: The Tapestry

In 1951, Pablo Picasso saw the work of master weavers René and Jacqueline de la Baume Dürrbach, whose studio was in the Var region of the south of France. He was highly impressed by their mastery of tapestry technique and its use to restate two dimensional painted masterpieces. Picasso asked them to weave tapestries of several of his most important paintings, and, in 1954, they wove their first piece based on one of his works. In 1955, the Dürrbachs wove the first of three tapestries after his masterpiece *Guernica*. Each weaving took about six months to complete. One remains in France, another belongs to a Japanese collection, and the first was purchased by the late Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, a longtime friend of Picasso and a collector of his work. While the painting had been more monochromatic, with blacks, whites, and shades of gray, in the tapestries the weavers introduced various shades of yellow and brown as well. As Rockefeller stated, "The subject had been sensitively and brilliantly adapted to the different medium, and the result was a stunningly beautiful work of art in its own right."

Nelson Rockefeller served as Governor of New York from 1959 to 1973. During that period, he exhibited *Guernica* in Albany and private Rockefeller galleries in Tarrytown, N.Y., and Seal Harbor, Maine. In the early 1960s, the tapestry traveled to universities in New York and Maine as well as to four cities in Japan. After Rockefeller's death in 1979, Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller lent the tapestry to the United Nations, where it was installed outside the Security Council with a plaque that read "In memory of Nelson A. Rockefeller and of his faith in and support for the United Nations."

When Gen. Colin Powell and Amb. John Negroponte held a press conference after making their case for war in Iraq, they stood in front of *Guernica*, which had been mysteriously covered. Some say it was to simplify the backdrop for the cameras; others believe that it was to protect their message from the powerful anti-war images of Picasso's tapestry. ★



Nelson Rockefeller stands with art critic Aline Saarinen in front of the tapestry in January, 1964.

On view now

Contemporary Latin American Art Gallery

Mays Free Sundays starts June 3; Café extends hours

The San Antonio Museum of Art is pleased to announce Mays Free Sundays starting June 3. Admission to the museum will be free to the public between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 pm every Sunday. To coincide with the extended hours, Café des Artistes will be opening at 10:00 am for brunch on Sundays. Additionally, on June 3 our First Sundays for Families will begin at 1:00 pm, providing the perfect opportunity for the public to spend the day enjoying SAMA's treasures.

A special thank you to the Mays Family Foundation for helping SAMA be free to the community on Sundays. Remember that the museum is also free every Tuesday from 4:00 to 9:00 pm thanks to H-E-B.



Thanks to the Mays Family Foundation, SAMA will open its doors to the public for free on Sundays from 10 am to 12 pm beginning June 3.

Scene at SAMA offers monthly extended hours, music, cocktails

The Museum is proud to announce its exciting new Second Friday "Scene at SAMA" Happy Hour, a monthly event that combines a particular aspect of the Museum's world class art exhibitions with a complementary musical genre and a unique specialty cocktail. Meet up with friends to start off the weekend at SAMA's pavilion on the banks of the San Antonio River or make a night of it with extended hours until 9:00 pm for both the Museum and Café des Artistes.

Scene at SAMA is part of the Museum's efforts to meet the needs of young professionals (or the young at heart!) to have a fun, sophisticated atmosphere to meet and enjoy cocktails, music and culture. The event is free with museum admission and is a collaboration between the San Antonio Museum of Art and KRTU Jazz 91.7.



LEFT: The crowd gathers on the Gloria Galt River Landing for the first Scene at SAMA event in February.

BELOW: Guests enjoy music and cocktails in SAMA's Great Hall.

BELOW LEFT: Bary Brake: Passion provided musical entertainment



SCENE
AT

SAMA

ART, COCKTAILS
& MUSIC SERIES



The San Antonio Museum of Art began its 2012 exhibition calendar with the *San Antonio Collects* exhibition series that celebrates the world-class art collections housed here in our own city.

SAN ANTONIO COLLECTS

Exhibition series celebrates world-class collections in San Antonio

San Antonio Collects: African American – Featuring works from the Harriet and Harmon Kelley and Irene and Leo Edwards Collection opened with a private reception for local and national dignitaries, including Martin Luther King III, the son of the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., on the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. march in San Antonio. Due to the overwhelming positive response to the exhibition, its closing date has been extended to June 17, 2012.

San Antonio Collects: Gentilz and Mission Life of San Antonio and Northern Mexico highlights the nineteenth-century artist Theodore Gentilz who painted the missions of San Antonio and Texas in its last days as a Republic. A variety of unique programs, including a member-only moonlight walk of the missions and a bike tour of the Mission Reach portion of the Riverwalk were offered to SAMA's members and the public.

SAMA's most recent exhibition opening, *San Antonio Collects: Contemporary – Works from important local collectors and the Linda Pace Foundation* opened with SAMA's annual gala and exciting new after-party, The Happening. Members and the public alike have also been treated to a variety of Artist Conversations with artists featured in the exhibition along with a variety of upcoming programs that includes the June 3 First Sundays for Families that highlights the exhibition.

The museum also held a private dinner reception honoring the local collectors whose art is currently enriching SAMA's permanent collection. ★



At the *San Antonio Collects: Gentilz and Mission Life in San Antonio* opening dinner: Dr. Charles Cotrell, Ronald Herrmann, Dr. Marion Oettinger



ABOVE
Gala guests enjoy an exclusive preview of the *San Antonio Collects: Contemporary* exhibition.

IMMEDIATE LEFT
Mrs. Hilda Ramos and Dr. Raul Ramos.

FAR LEFT AND BELOW
At the *San Antonio Collects: African American*: Martin Luther King III addresses and greets the crowd at SAMA. Below: Katie Luber, Leo Edwards, Irene Edwards, Angela Waters King, Martin Luther King III, Harriet Kelley, Harmon Kelley, Karen Hixon.



Historical photography the focus of *Sublime Light*

Sublime Light: A Survey of American Photographs from the Permanent Collection gathers more than fifty masterful and iconic images from SAMA's holdings of photography and strives to illustrate the breadth and vitality of the medium over the last one and one half centuries. Although the first fixed image was recorded in 1826, artists were exploring the possibilities of recording light-generated images as early as the Renaissance using an optical device called the *camera obscura*. It consisted of a darkened room or box with a hole in one side, light rays from an external scene passed through a small hole in one wall to form an image on the opposite wall, long enough to be traced on paper. Over time, this camera evolved through technological advances, diminished in size, and eventually became the modern portable camera.

A selection of historic photographic images emerge from SAMA's vault for the exhibition, dating from the mid to late 19th century by largely unknown photographers or studios, and offers a rare glimpse into the early years of fixing image to plate or paper. Early photographs, rather precious and diminutive in size, are usually stiffly posed portraits or landscape subjects. The images are documentary in nature, or try to emulate still life or landscape paintings of the day. Examples include the daguerreotype (one-of-a-kind photographic image on copper plate, a "direct positive") and the ambrotype (one-of-a-kind image on glass and colored by hand). Through further technological improvements of tintypes and albumen print processes which were inexpensive to produce, photographs became very popular and affordable collectibles for many Americans to own.

As early as the 1890s through the 20th century, photographers pushed the technical boundaries of the medium itself, as well as exploring its expressive and creative potential, propelling the medium of photography to fine art status. This exhibition features some of America's most accomplished and celebrated photographers such as Berenice Abbott, Ansel Adams, Richard Avedon, Margaret Bourke-White, Imogen Cunningham, Elliot Elisofon, Dorothea Lange, Barbara Morgan, Irving Penn, Kay Bell Reynal, W. Eugene Smith, Edward Steichen,

Paul Strand, George Tice, Edward Weston, Minor White and James Van Der Zee. Subjects range from cityscapes, industry, and rural landscapes, to portraits, figures, and still-lives that are imbued with elegance and poignancy as well as sublime beauty.

Into the 21st century and our information and ubiquitous image-rich digital age, SAMA's collection continues to grow to include innovative and compelling works in the medium of photography. As artists continue to embrace, experiment with and exploit the latest digital equipment and materials at their disposal toward artistic ends, the boundaries of photography are ever expanding and evolving. Examples of digitally manipulated photographs or images exploring the use of new technologies are featured in works by David Halliday, Geoff Winningham, Juan Miguel Ramos and Maggie Taylor. ★

View it here

Sublime Light: A Survey of American Photographs from the Permanent Collection

June 2 – August 19, 2012
Focus Gallery

BELOW
Kay Bell Reynal (1905-1977)
Two Models with Sunshields, 1948
Gelatin silver print
Purchased with funds provided by the Hearst Foundation
77.232

BELOW LEFT
Unknown American photographer (19th century)
Portrait of a Shirtless Young Man
c. 1865
Tinted Ambrotype
Gift of Mrs. Ben A. Franks,
64.238.19c





Ancient Greece exhibition will bring Aphrodite to SAMA this fall

For the first time in SAMA's history, the Museum will host an exhibition focusing on the art and culture of ancient Greece this fall. *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love* features works from the renowned classical art collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Although Aphrodite is best known today as the Greek goddess of love, this popular and potentially dangerous goddess was both a patroness of brides and an agent of political harmony as well as an adulterous seductress and instigator of sexual desire. The exhibition explores Aphrodite's many facets through graceful images of the goddess in marble, silver and bronze; votive offerings dedicated in her honor; Athenian vases depicting the

preparation of brides; and personal articles such as mirrors and jewelry. The exhibition is enhanced by seven breathtaking works lent by the National Archaeological Museum in Naples, Italy, including a stunning statue of Aphrodite from the Roman amphitheater in Capua and wall paintings and a silver cup discovered in the ruins of Pompeii. While the exhibition is on view, the Museum will host a range of related programs including lectures, films, concerts, family activities and more.

Aphrodite and the Gods of Love has been organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Statue of Aphrodite (detail)
Roman, from the amphitheater of Capua, A.D. 117-138
Marble
H. 82 5/8 in. (210 cm)
National Archaeological Museum, Naples, 6017

Sept. 15, 2012 – Feb. 17, 2013

Cowden Gallery

Rare Shunga prints on view for a limited time at SAMA

Sept. 7 – Nov. 11, 2012

Special Exhibitions
Gallery

A Couple Making Love on the Floor in Kyoto
Okumura Masanobu
(1686-1764)
Japan
From *Love in Three Capitals*, ca. 1710-15
Woodblock print
Private Collection
L2012.47.1

The three great capital cities of Japan — Edo, Osaka, and Kyoto — were rivals in the Imperial era. Edo (near present-day Tokyo), Osaka and Kyoto were known respectively as the political, commercial, and cultural capitals of Japan. Each city had sprawling entertainment districts, which included famous brothels, and the pleasures offered in each city were the subject of lively comparison. This rare and complete set of twelve prints dating between 1710-15 depict sexual encounters in the pleasure quarters of the three capitals. Each of the capitals is represented by four prints. A small, round disc in each print indicates the city where the scene takes place. The prints, titled *Love in Three Capitals*, belong to the *shunga* genre, an erotic art tradition that began in the Heian period (794-1125) and remained popular in Japan up to modern times.

The prints are by artist Okumura Masanobu (1686-1764) and show his characteristic use of thick, black lines.

Masanobu also produced paintings and prints on less titillating themes, such as landscapes and images of legendary figures. In addition to overtly sexual content, these prints also contain interesting details such as interior furnishings and the elaborate textiles worn by the figures. Due to the mature subject matter represented in these prints, this exhibition is limited to an adult audience.



Rostros de Maria: The Virgin as Archetype and Inspiration

Many aspects of the Roman Catholic cult of Mary are deeply rooted in religious beliefs of the Old Testament and pre-Christian ritual associated with fertility, fecundity, maternity, nourishment and other core human needs. For many centuries, Catholic Marian devotion manifested itself in myriad forms all over Europe, supported by apparition accounts, dress, physical appearance and other local cultural and ethnic patterns. With the arrival of the Spanish, Portuguese and French in the Americas in the early 16th century, the Virgin Mary appeared in hundreds of communities — on the banks of rivers, inside caves, atop mountains, and other places which had been sacred long before the landing of Europeans. Usually, the Virgin appeared to ordinary folks, often speaking indigenous languages, wearing local dress and manifesting familiar somatic features. Her presence in art has

provided centuries of inspiration for believers throughout Latin America and continues to be a comforting model of sacrifice and fidelity.

This exhibition draws from SAMA's rich collection of Marian images to illustrate the broad variation of the genre and demonstrate the agility of religious art to adjust to new times, places and cultures.

Our Lady of Mercy
Late 18th century
Ecuador
All on canvas Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William Bentley
95.56



Aug. 18 – Feb. 20, 2013

Golden Gallery

Adad Hannah to bring photographs, tableaux to SAMA

Canadian artist Adad Hannah creates staged photographs and video tableaux that reinterpret art historical masterpieces and raise questions about the change and evolution of a work's meaning over time. For *Adad Hannah: Intimate Encounters* at the San Antonio Museum of Art, Hannah will exhibit projects created in response to an antique bust of Eros and Aphrodite, a painting of Adam and Eve by Albrecht Dürer, and a nude sculpture from *The Burghers of Calais* by Auguste Rodin. Chosen because of their subtle erotic overtones, these selections from Hannah's oeuvre will complement the concurrent exhibition *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love*.

Located at the Prado Museum in Madrid, Spain, the bust of Eros and Aphrodite is shown in Hannah's photographs and videos with a woman and man respectively about to kiss the lips of the god and goddess depicted in the sculpture. Also produced at the Prado, *Blocking Adam and Eve* includes photographs and videos of a young man holding and implement to conceal the fig-leaved genitals of Adam and Eve in Albrecht Dürer's painting of the bibli-



cal duo. For *Unwrapping Rodin*, a photographic sequence shows the nude statue in various stages of undress as wrapping paper has been peeled from it.

For the SAMA exhibition, Hannah has been invited to visit San Antonio to select a work from the collection of the San Antonio Museum of Art. Once he has found a work from the collection to inspire him, Hannah will produce a new series of photographs and videos, with volunteers from the San Antonio community serving as models. The new project will be exhibited with the three projects cited above as SAMA's feature exhibition for the 2012 edition of *FotoSeptiembreUSA*.

Eros and Aphrodite, 2008
HD video
7 min., 18 sec.
Produced with the cooperation of the Museo Nacional del Prado.

Sept. 1 – Dec. 30, 2012

Focus Gallery



Gala celebrates *San Antonio Collects: Contemporary*

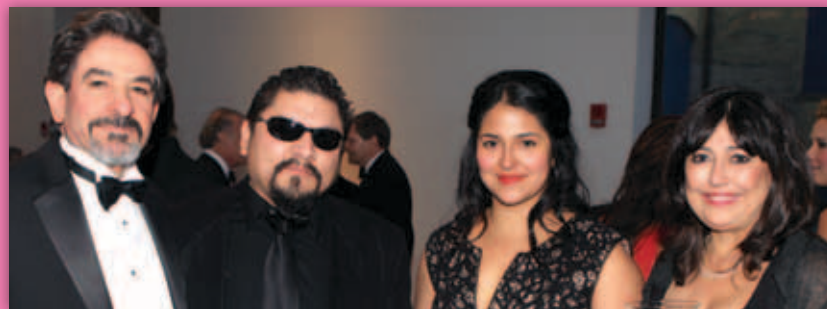
SAMA hosted its annual gala on March 22 celebrating the opening of the exhibition *San Antonio Collects: Contemporary*. The evening honored the late Linda Pace and other San Antonio contemporary art collectors, highlighting their roles as leaders in the field as collectors and their commitment to the contemporary art community.

Chaired by Guillermo Nicolás, SAMA's West Courtyard was transformed into a fabulously vibrant party that was enjoyed by over 375 guests. The RK Group designed a menu that complimented the contemporary art theme, while Henry Brun entertained the audience with chic samba music by Judi DeLeon & the Brazilian '12 Ensemble. Guests danced into the night at the amazing after-party, The Happening.

The Happening

Partygoers continued the celebration with a contemporary art inspired night of dazzling live music under the pavilion on the Gloria Galt River Landing. Guests enjoyed specialty cocktails served at the Buddah bar and live entertainment streamed from behind a larger than life shadow box.

All proceeds from the evening's events provided crucial operating support for SAMA's collections, exhibitions and educational programming.



Dr. Raphael Guerra, Alex Rubio, Vanessa Montaño, and Mrs. Sandra Guerra



Jill Rosenthal, Ana Paula Watson, Emma Calvert, and Elizabeth Roberts



Cecil and William Scanlan, Jr.



Lowry and Peggy Mays, David Rubin



Steven Evans, Katie Luber, and Guillermo Nicolas



Chris Carson and Patsy Steves



Mark Gelatt, Joseph Almendariz and Alejandro Padilla



Lawrence and Gina Markey



Irma Nicolas and Margo Train



Destination: Paris event arrives in September

The San Antonio Museum of Art will host its *Destination: Paris* event on Thursday, September 27, 2012. Formerly the Backyard River Bash, this outdoor event is sure to draw a large crowd to SAMA's beautiful West Courtyard and Gloria Galt River Landing.

This year's chairmen, Karen Lee and David Zachry, invite you to bring your friends to enjoy a taste of Paris with a fabulous evening that includes a live performance by The Klocks, and an array of refreshing cocktails and Parisian delicacies provided by Page Barteau Catering. There will also be an opportunity for a chance to win a trip to Paris!

Sponsorships are available at the \$5,000, \$3,500 and \$1,500 level. Each level includes 20, 15 or 10 tickets based on your level of sponsorship. In appreciation for your support, sponsors will be recognized in all print materials related to the event. Individual tickets are available for \$200 per couple or \$100 each.

We hope you will join us for what is sure to be a fun evening at SAMA! This unique event will provide crucial operating support for SAMA's collections, exhibitions and educational programming. For more information and to make your reservation please call (210) 978-8106.

Circle Members Dinner set for fall, Ruiz-Healy to chair

Become a Circle Member today and receive an exclusive invitation to the San Antonio Museum of Art's Fourth Annual Circle Members Dinner to be held in the fall of 2012. This year's event will once again be chaired by Patricia Ruiz-Healy. Each year SAMA recognizes those who support the Museum's membership program at \$1,000 and above with an elegant reception, dinner and presentation featuring an honored guest nationally recognized for his/her involvement in the arts. This is a wonderful opportunity to mingle with other arts supporters in the San Antonio community and to expand your knowledge of the arts, including SAMA's collections. As patrons who show a deep commitment to the Museum's mission, Circle Members also enjoy invitations to private events, programs and travel opportunities throughout the year.

Updates about this year's guest speaker and date of the Circle Members Dinner will be listed on the Museum's website at www.samuseum.org. For more information on SAMA's Circle Member program, or to join, you may contact Lana Shafer in the membership office at (210) 978-8133 or lane.shafer@samuseum.org. A formal save the date and invitation will be sent to all current Circle Members via mail.



Circle Members enjoy a wonderful dinner sponsored by NuStar Energy and South Texas Money Management in October 2011.



Welcome new and returning members

The following gifts were received November 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012

- Patron \$500**
Mr. James W. Albert and Dr. Valerie L. Spiser-Albert
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Spratling Trunk Show

Join the SAMA Store for a unique shopping experience on Thursday, June 21 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. The show will feature unique reproductions of original Spratling designs. Consuelo Ulrich, current owner of the Spratling company, will be at SAMA during this event to discuss the rich history of Spratling silver work. During this event, members will receive 10% off any purchase of Spratling merchandise, which is normally not eligible for membership discounts. Stop by the store today to look at the current Spratling merchandise we have in stock and get a taste of what is to come this summer.



SHOP TALK — NEWS FROM THE SAMA STORE



CAFÉ CORNER — NEWS FROM CAFÉ DES ARTISTES

Café wraps up Best in Outdoor Dining award

The weather is heating up and it is time to enjoy dining al fresco with a glass of wine and beautiful views of the San Antonio River.

Café des Artistes is excited to announce its recent award for the WOAI Best of San Antonio: Outdoor Dining. Now is the perfect time to try the café if you have not had a chance to savor its fresh French flavors. Join us every Friday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm for live music on the terrace or on Sunday for our amazing mimosa brunch.



Members have a chance to attend the unveiling of our new menu at the Members Only Menu Tasting at Café des Artistes on May 31 at 7:00 pm. Enjoy a four-course fixed menu with a glass of wine for \$40 per person. Space is limited. Registration and pre-payment are required by May 24. Call (210) 978-8133 to reserve your spot.



Café des Artistes customers enjoy a meal and live music along the Gloria Galt River Landing at SAMA.

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday:
11 am – 9 pm
Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday:
11 am – 3 pm
Starting June 3:
Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm

Like

Be sure to "like" the new Café des Artistes Facebook Page for information on daily specials, entertainment and more!

Director's Choice

Wooden figures of Amitabha Buddha, the subject of this sculpture, were very popular in Japan during the 12th and 13th centuries. According to Mahayana Buddhist doctrine, Amitabha Buddha resides in the Western Paradise, and the fortunate faithful can be reborn there in the next life. In this gorgeous example, Amitabha is shown with his hands in a symbolic gesture known in Sanskrit as a mudra. This mudra means “welcome to paradise” and is related to the Buddha’s role in the Western Paradise.

Consistent with Buddhist sculpture of the period, the figure is carved of wood and is constructed by the joined-block method. Traces of gold, pigment and lacquer suggest that the sculpture was originally painted and gilded. Some of the tiny jewels that adorned Amitabha’s crown survive intact. Considering the early date and great rarity of the figure, this image is in very good condition. The newly acquired Amitabha sculpture takes a place of pride amongst the fine group of Japanese Buddhist figures in SAMA’s Asian art collection.

The Buddha was acquired by the Museum early this year thanks to the generosity of Lenora and Walter F. Brown. The Museum is delighted to welcome a late 12th century Japanese Buddha into our permanent collection.

Amitabha Buddha
Japan, Heian period,
late 12th century
Wood with traces of pigment
and gold
Purchased with funds provided
by Lenora and Walter F. Brown
2012.1

