

# PACIFIC RIM SCULPTORS GROUP

MAY - JUNE 2008

## NEWSLETTER

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday, June 8, 2008**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Paradise Ridge Winery**  
Thomas Lake Harris Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA  
(707) 528-9463

(see Russell Herrman's  
statement for directions)

### FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

*The Carl Cherry Center for the Arts*  
Carmel, CA

**Deadline: June 2, 2008**

Indoor: September 5 - October 17, 2008

Outdoor: September 5 - March 17, 2009  
(application enclosed)

Hearst Art Gallery  
Moraga, CA  
Indoor-Outdoor Show  
August 9 to September 19, 2011

## MEMBERS' NEWS

**NANCY ZIEGLER NODELMAN** is showing in various Spring exhibits in Santa Fe, New Mexico:

Beaux Arts at Center for Contemporary Arts  
SITE Unseen at SITE Santa Fe  
Spontaneous Combustion at Gallery Zipp  
Crystal Ball at New Mexico Museum of Art

Two of **ZULEMA DI MARCO'S** stone sculptures were placed on permanent display at Simpson University in Redding, California.

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**ZAHAVA SHEREZ** had an article in the April issue of CURVE magazine - *Open Studio*. Also, *Those People Are Us*, an installation, is at ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA beginning April 24.

**ROSIE ECHELMEIER** has two pieces in the Marin Society of Artists Sculpture and Craft show. Her bronze *Woman on the Rock* won 2nd place (\$100) and she also received Honorable Mention for *Lily*, a cold cast bronze bust. The show runs April 11 to May 18. She will be showing terracotta and acrylic high relief pieces in the San Geronimo Valley Spring Art Show that will be up from May 7 to May 18. Further, she has a terracotta piece, *Turk-ana Woman*, at Town Center in the Marin Open Studios Gallery, up through May 13

**CYNTHIA HANDEL** will be lecturing at a conference at the University of Colorado in Denver as part of The Western Cast iron Art Conference, June 2-7. She will be on a panel talking about casting iron in Northern California, speaking about The Crucible Cast iron and Diablo Valley Cast iron with Hopi Breton. They will be re-enacting the History of Bowling, using cast iron bowling balls and ceramic shell pins, all on steel platforms five feet from the ground!!

**PAM DERNHAM** will be in the Visual Aid Auction, Thursday, May 8, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., at the Intercontinental

Ballroom, 888 Howard Street, San Francisco. Visual Aid provides artist materials for artists with terminal illnesses. Margaret Herscher was one of our members who benefited from their program.

**DEBORAH COLOTTI** will have a solo exhibition of her audience-participatory project, *In the Universe We Are Alien*, at the City of Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa from June 2 to July 25, 2008. Reception – Thursday, June 12, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Information: (707) 543-4512

**KATI CASIDA, WILLIAM WAREHAM** and **PATRICIA BENGTON-JONES** will show slides and lecture about their sculpture histories at the Orinda Community Center, Room 7, City Center and Library, May 17, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Orinda, California.

**SUSAN PETERSON, NUALA CREED**, and **CAROL WEDEMAYER** are in a show entitled *Exploring The Surface* at the Pence Gallery in Davis, CA. The show was juried by Peter VandenBerge. April 25 - June 1, 2008.

**RUSSELL HERRMAN, DAVID MUDGETT, PAT BENGTON-JONES, RALPH HOLKER** and **M.C. CAROLYN** are in the show at Paradise Ridge Winery (see details on front page) - *14th Anniversary Celebration & Opening of New Sculpturegrove Exhibit*. May 18, 2008 to April 2009. **Opening Reception:** May 18, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**THE RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN** is once again hosting the 14th Annual Sculpture in the Garden Show on Father's Day weekend featuring 37 bay area artists, 14 of whom are present PRSG members.

General public viewing is **Saturday and Sunday, June 14 & June 15** from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1500 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek. Admission is \$10 and children under 12 are free. For more information go to [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org) or call (925) 944-9352.

PacRim Members in the show are: **Mary Bayer, Ted Bayer, Joe Bologna, Rebecca Fox, Sam Gill, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Patricia Bengton Jones, David Mudgett, John Oldani, Betty Rasicot Pillsbury, Charles H. Stinson, Clayton Thiel, Kim Webster, and Carol Wedemeyer**

The Laney College EcoArt Matters exhibit *Matters of Fact* will be up from May 12 to May 27, with an opening reception on Tuesday, May 13, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., featuring a Lovavore feast with sample recipes, performance and interactive art about important environmental and social justice issues. Laney Art Center Hall Gallery is in the multicolored building located on 10th street in Oakland, across from the Kaiser Convention Center, behind the tennis courts. All are welcome.

**CALL FOR ENTRY: Deadline: 7/07/08.** *Realities and Illusions*, Marin Museum of Contemporary Art's 2008 Fall National Juried Exhibition is open to all United States resident artists 18 and older. You are invited to submit up to five digital images of your original art works, done in the past three years, in the following media: oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolor, drawing, sculpture, photography, or mixed media. Video and films are not accepted.

Theme: representational, abstract and/or imagined art works.  
Juror: Kenneth Baker, Art Critic *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Download Prospectus and Entry Form at: [www.marinmoca.org](http://www.marinmoca.org) or email [info@marinmoca.org](mailto:info@marinmoca.org). (415) 506-0137.

## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

by Nikki Schragger

As you may recall, I sent out a mass email regarding PacRim and posed some questions about meeting venues, *e.g.*, what kind of meetings do you want, where do you want to meet, what do you expect from a meeting, etc.? Traditionally, meetings have alternated between the East Bay and San Francisco. Somehow, that got off track. It has to come back on track. Hunters Point has proven to be a turnoff to many members (see comments below). Losing 600 Townsend as a venue, not only for general meetings, but as a great place where our members exhibited as a group, was very hard, but that venue is no longer available to us. Although some members are showing in individual shows there now, we must try to find other venues.

It also seems to me that meetings have become too focused on the speaker. Speakers are great; they are not free; we do give an *honorarium*. I think we should think about using more of the meeting time to focus on our group and members.

We will definitely have an East Bay venue for the August meeting and I would like that to be a meeting where members can show slides. When we did that in the past, those meetings turned out to be interesting and exciting because we had the active participation of members.

Here are some of the responses I received.

- Joe Bologna: Usually, our biggest meeting turnouts were at 600 Townsend, during openings. A very tangible display of why we belong to PRSG. Now, we only hear about the shows in some distant location, so it takes more effort and planning to attend. But unless we go see them, we lose touch with the group.
- Patricia Bengtson-Jones: Having the meetings (at Hunter's Point), in an unheated space is NOT welcoming. Fort Mason - then the next month - East Bay location - Berkeley Art Center, Oakland sites, North Bay, as Russell suggested. New members show their work, and members share their work.
- Sam Gill: I think the gas prices are really affecting our travel. The drive from Brentwood to SF for meetings is difficult. Perhaps a location more central to the group might encourage better attendance.
- Marsha Balian: I would love to be able to attend meetings, but truthfully Hunter's Point is a little daunting. Perhaps meetings could alternate between San Francisco and the East Bay? The topics are always compelling, but I'm often frequently too tired to drive that distance after a full day of work.
- Francie Allen: What if we had a few general meetings where 2-4 members were organized in advance to show their slides and talk about their work? Maybe there could be themes, like figurative art, installation art, land art, Burning Man, underground, "low brow", etc.
- Pam Dernham: As to meetings, I would like to see a trade-off with the East Bay and I would like us to share our work and have some more group discussions, in addition to speakers. We have had many great speakers and I do like that part of what we do.
- M.C. Carolyn: About meetings, I come from a far distance. You are a wonderful community of sculptors. It would be very interesting for me to see examples of other members' work, either through slides or digital images. It helps me understand an artist much more clearly if I know how/what/why they work.
- Susan Leibovitz-Steinman: falling attendance at meetings. think there's probably lots of possible reasons. groups go thru cycles. i think big difference is loss of permanent exhibit space....the space we had was a great asset for being able to frequently show work in a collectively supportive atmosphere rather than a commercial one. not the same thing having far flung venues. also the meetings have to have more interesting speakers. but also membership changes so group has to change with the members. maybe a loose *ad hoc* committee could brainstorm on this. shame for the group to fizzle... just some thoughts... members always like sharing slides. that was a good idea.

- Rusty Cantor: I'd love to come to meetings but I no longer drive at night. Also it seems to me we don't have many meetings in the East Bay; especially around Berkeley. And there isn't much time to socialize when we always have speakers. Some workshop meetings might be nice and a chance now and then to see slides of members work. Perhaps we could have some of our meetings at member's studios where we could see what others are doing.
  - Deborah Colotti: The content of the meeting at Hunter's Point with Muriel Maffre was much better than I expected! (I wasn't sure that a ballet dancer's concerns overlapped in any way with my own as a sculptor.) Yet, in the end, I had a lot of questions, and she had good answers.
  - John Hughes: I live in south San Jose. I'm not in the best of shape any more, so a two-hour round trip to Oakland or San Francisco with the parking nightmare that is up there has no appeal to me. I enter some of the shows, and often get in, but usually shows in the south bay.
- ❖ **Image Registry** – the new Director of SFMOMA Artists Gallery, Maria Medua, came to my studio to see my photography. While she was here, I offered to give her the PacRim Image Registry to look at. However, since the size of the box holding the binders was so large and heavy, she didn't want to have to schlep it. I then directed her to the PRSG website ([www.pacificrimsculptorsgroup.org](http://www.pacificrimsculptorsgroup.org)). She indicated that she would look at individual member's websites through links which are listed there. This is definitely something to think about in terms of showing one's work, *i.e.*, having a website is a decided advantage.

The image registry was also shown this year to Carin Adams, Curatorial Specialist, at the Oakland Museum.

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## DEPARTING CHAIR STATEMENT

by Russell Herrman

For my last meeting as Chair of PRSG, I decided to have it at the Paradise Ridge Winery in north Santa Rosa. I felt that, with summer coming, we should celebrate our organization in wine country with outdoor sculpture among the grapes! The owner, Walter Byck, will be our Speaker, and will discuss his winery and the outdoor sculpture art shows that he has held for the last several years. The meeting time will be 1:00 pm and several members have graciously offered to be contact people for car pooling to this meeting (see list below.) I also would like to have the artists who are exhibiting in this show attend this meeting and give a tour of their artwork after our general meeting.

I believe that it is important for the members attending this meeting to begin a dialogue about what they want from this organization and who would like to volunteer to fill the positions on the Board currently filled by members who have been volunteers for a number of years. We need to reinvigorate what was a dynamic and special sculpture organization. Please consider volunteering.

I have enjoyed my time as the Chair, and recommend this position to anyone interested in bringing to the group their vision and direction for our Group. Many unexpected opportunities open up to those who volunteer.

**Next Meeting: Sunday, June 8, at the Paradise Ridge Winery**, Thomas Lake Harris Drive, Santa Rosa. (707) 528-9463. *Directions from SF:* 101 North (past Downtown Santa Rosa Exit), exit Bicentennial Way, go right traveling east. Bicentennial Way merges with Fountaingrove; continue on Fountaingrove. Take the second left onto Thomas Lake Harris Drive. Drive 7/10th mile to the only driveway on the left into the winery parking lot. Meet in the Tasting Room by 1:00 p.m. Allow at least 1 to 1-1/2 hrs from San Francisco.

### **Carpool Contacts:**

Russell Herrman: (SF) (415) 441-5015 Home; (415) 822-4641 Studio; email: KineticSculptor@Yahoo.com

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## **FORM AND IDEAS IN MOVEMENT AND SPACE: MURIEL MAFFRE SPEAKS TO PACRIM**

APRIL 16, 2008

by Ruth Geos

We had the great thrill and pleasure of hearing from Muriel Maffre on her art and process, at our last meeting. As she explained, she began her training as a dancer in Paris as a young girl, and was very influenced by one her teachers who concentrated on the process of movement as an essential element underlying the technical and physical aspects of dance. Principles of movement are much like the form, ideas, and the conceptual process in sculpture, and perhaps in all art-making: line, contour, gravity, opposition of forces, space within and without, sound and echo, and--throughout all--breath of life. As she explained, the daily training of a dancer takes in these principles as the base in becoming able to transform ideas into form, form into ideas, and to keep and promote the flow of that connection. She also spoke very personally about accepting her own distinctness, her 6-foot height, as a force to use within ballet, with her own inner certainty, and with the determination of much hard work.

We entered into her world though a video of a recent performance at the Djerassi: an improvisation, outdoors, with the cellist, Joan Jeanrenaud. For those that missed this video, shot by Benjamin Pierce, former dancer with the SF Ballet, there is a small inadequate snippet of this performance on youtube, probably shot by a guest standing within the artist barn looking outward at the magical movement and focus made by Muriel in the landscape of sky and earth. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sYEVBS6Bww&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sYEVBS6Bww&feature=related). For those of us lucky enough to be at her presentation, we were also able to see a second version with some audible comments on her thought process as she moved closer to the earth, vanished in a dip of the land, went *en pointe*, and finally, as the guests inside were drawn outside, moved even closer, woman and spirit together, to brush her body against theirs.

Muriel Maffre continues to dance in San Francisco with the Lines Ballet, and is currently the curator of two visual arts installation: one within the Opera House, continuing through the first week of May, and an installation along Hayes Street, which opened April 25. My very great thanks to her for accepting our invitation.

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### UPDATE IMAGE REGISTRY

Please mail your images to:

Pam Dernham  
117 Maiden Lane  
Oakland, CA 94602  
(510) 530-2432

Submit up to four sheets, eight sides, resume, images — your choice.  
We are starting an outdoor sculpture registry. Send information as above plus a price list.

**PACIFIC RIM**  
SCULPTORS GROUP

PO BOX 10569, OAKLAND, CA 94610

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