

Fiber Dimensions February 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Marcia Kent: Host & Chef
Chris Motley: Chairperson
Ventana Amico: Secretary; make that Editor

MEMBERS ATTENDING were:

Chris, Margaret, JoAnn B., Ventana, Judy, Sheila, Juline, Marcia, Marie, Jennifer, Laurel, Marty, Roy, Wendy, Lucy, Phyllis

Budget – Juline reported the bank balance is **\$4561.17**, with another \$100 to be deposited. Two members have still not paid their dues.

CRITIQUES

Phyllis is known for her ability to manipulate natural materials to make boats, objects, recognizable human-made items. She is now shifting toward focusing on found materials themselves as the object of art, by enhancing or featuring their natural appearance to create the art, rather than making the materials look like something else such as a boat. She showed an elegantly curving long date palm branch (actually a grass cluster) with leaves on the slender shoots at one end.

The question was how best to display it? We liked its curving form and discussed different angles for installing it: Out from wall, shown with leaves going up; should it be on wall, or free standing on floor? Phyllis has learned to visually separate the piece from the brackets or base used to support it, or else the support becomes part of the piece. Note to self.

Marcia showed a silk collage on framed, colored canvas. Comments were to vary the contrast of colors used; to create more relief with negative space or texture, to differentiate its elements. Might add darkness. Marcia likes the differences in the materials used. She may pull the fabric pieces in from the sides. It is intentional to have layers peeling off; so she may want to exaggerate that. Instead of cutting the silk in straight lines, she may want to consider softening/fraying the edges.

Roy's new piece from his "portals" series of wood, canvas, metal dyes, acrylic, gold leaf, etc. appears to be hammered.

He gets metal dyes from Ron Young, at Sculpt Nouveau in southern CA, if you are looking for patinas. (good source)

He's thinking of covering it in resin to make it look 'frozen in time'. If he used resin it might look like wax. He will experiment with the resin so as not to remove existing colors with the finish. This looks like an icon.

Roy's 2nd piece is more abstract and he is so excited about it he can hardly contain himself. Gold, silver, orange, green shades are blended together, with relief, and an apparent opening where he usually places a door (portal). His 3rd piece has gold-bronze coloring, with three openings. He makes good use of photoshop in designing his pieces, and is very pleased with the results. Ammonia works well to remove or soften acrylics. He gently worked off paint with a toothbrush to create the spaces. Marty suggested using alcohol to remove the paint. Jennifer likes this piece because of its 'mystery', and the process is more apparent. He cuts plywood as ground, spackles & seals edges, primes it, and then begins to create the surface.

Marie would have brought in her work to show but is showing 28 pieces currently in South Carolina, so she brought us a photo. She was invited by James Arendt, (the denim artist who directs the gallery). The show is called, "**Marie Bergstedt, Amendments**" (solo show), Feb 26 – April 1, at the Rebecca Randall Bryan Art Gallery at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina: www.coastal.edu/bryanartgallery/

Marie used plaster cast strips, embroidery, smocking, and button work in her latest piece, which was inspired by images from her niece's large wedding. It incorporates her niece's tattoos and piercings. It is a juicy, smiling, buttony, lacey, hairy vision --**both suspended from the ceiling and resting on a post**, and is made in pieces to be shipped and then attached. She buys boxes from ULine supplies (catalog), **UPS, and an art shipper located in Napa**. She talked about her process of building her pieces with assembly & shipping in mind. When she ships she uses very detailed instructions & photos for **repacking** pieces, to return ship after the show. UPS will insure fine art. **some do not**. This gallery covers all of Marie's expenses: shipping, travel, etc. She was so pleased to be in this show, & treated so well.

Roy suggests that when you insure, be sure to list the *shipper* (you) as the one to receive payment if your work is broken in shipping.

Reminder to all members: Every one of us must show up to meetings and show off our work, as *we don't have enough critiques and that is the basis of our group*.

Jennifer showed her embroidered Bees piece and is wondering how best to display the layers of cells in the beehive. Juline says to make pieces *interlock*: make a tongue in a groove in the clear plastic “tubes” which can connect the layers of cells on which the bees are embroidered. That will be stable. We preferred showing the bee cells in the layers, which adds interest,

On the subject of attaching things....Chris recommends **Website: “this to that”** – how to glue things.

ONGOING BUSINESS: POTENTIAL SHOW VENUES

Lucy & Laurel explored options for showing our work in late 2015 &/or 2016 at

- 1) **The Piedmont Center for Arts Gallery** at USF Library vs.
- 2) **Thacher Gallery** @ USF in the USF Main Library, next to Fromm Institute.

The East Bay's Piedmont Center is new & lovely. Open Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun. Most display space is walls; very limited pedestals as children go there. Rental rates are \$250/week, 1st week, then \$75 / week. Only weekends are good times to visit as parking is rare during week. Located at 801 Magnolia in Piedmont.

Lucy attends programs at Fromm Insitute and is familiar with Thacher and the many people who go there of diverse ages and backgrounds, and she recommends the venue. **Chris** researched the space and visited the Thacher Gallery . They require a theme that is broad enough to attract many different departments within the University. 2016 could be the available year to show. Their Director wants us to present a proposal before giving more details, but we do know there is NO cost to show there, and it may be a long one – 2-3 months or so. They have cases for display. Since you have to be allowed into the space, you need

to be buzzed in to enter. Open everyday of week. Need to see how many pedestals could be used. Jesuit school on hill. Fromm classes are given in building next door (It is like OSHER center – for older people, but many people go there.) It's located in a residential area. One must know its there to go to it, and very hard to park. Director of Library handles the gallery. She is interested in our group. Many kinds of events are given there (music, poetry readings, etc.) Again – it's mostly Wall Space.

SOMARTS in Design Center South of Market, which we discussed at last meeting, is the space we voted out. It is expensive, and a different crowd. Was going to be \$4500 cost to show there, plus the costs of reception, publicity, etc.

We need a **committee** to consider and make decisions on the potential upcoming exhibit spaces. Phyllis volunteered, Chris graciously accepted coercion to also serve. In her absence, Jeanette was “volunteered” until we remembered she had instead, intended to go with Lucy to meet Tia Lombardi, regarding the **Presidio space**. We will know more about that possibility after the meeting with Tia Lombardi again; after February. The Presidio timeframe is to show at end of 2015.

It was moved and seconded and voted in favor that we present a **proposal to Thacher** Gallery for showing in 2016.

What to call the Exhibit? **ASSIGNMENT FOR ALL MEMBERS:** *Help us identify a theme &/or Title possibly relating to “Recycle.”* Looking at Thatcher's website, we learn what's been done in past, and get ideas for a theme. (Previous titles used were: faulty, strange attractors, active synchrony, in nature's temple, Calif. Art Recology, Made in China). We recognize we work in “*unexpected use, or re-use.*” We use fiber techniques but many different materials. We may want to use relevant words such as sustainability, ecology, etc.

Current suggestions are:

New Dimensions, Dimensions Revisited, Changing Dimensions, *Each member is to **come up with 3 titles for the new show*** along the lines of recyclable art, etc. This will be for the Gallery Director, who wants written info to present to her board. **SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS** to Chris or Phyllis, on the Show Committee, via email, **by Monday, March 2.**

The WEEK BEFORE MARCH F/D MEETING, the Committee will synthesize your submissions to present at the next meeting at JULINE'S house in Sausalito, on March 11, 2015 (see directions, below.)

OLD BUSINESS

Donations: Emily asked at last meeting if we F/D want to consider a \$100 **Donation** to contribute to the Marin art group which *was previously known as* Marin Arts Council, which managed Marin Open Studios. This *new* group is *currently known as* **MarinArts Group**. (Not Reynards... but MarinArts. ...chuckle.) This year they will create an arts calendar. **Roy** will do further research to identify the group to us. With more clarity, we'll table the talk for next meeting.

Retreat/Workshop Meeting: The May **F/D Meeting Special Event** will be held at Emily's cottage at Stinson Beach approximately 10 – 3 or 4 pm. Most members are interested in attending. Thank you **Emily!**

We reviewed workshop options from Deble's email:

Work on our own work, together,
Have member from group present something,
Hold a Rust /paper, fabric process workshop,
Make Art Bombs,
Collect & Use beach found objects to make art.

An additional idea from **Phyllis** was added, for us all to Create a postcard, & mail to somewhere. (As Allegra & Thomas 'do' postcards.) Could send to nursing home, or ...?

The Postcards idea was selected as it is small & doable. We can construct, deconstruct, or alter an existing postcard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Marcia showed a copy of the **IJ Article about Katy's** work, which drew many favorable comments. The article introduced the **current FIBER Show at Artworks Downtown** which was juried by Richard Elliot. A Second Opening will be held on **Friday, February 13**. Richard will be there... along with many of our members whose work is also in this show. They are Juline Beier, Susan Doyle, Katy Drury Anderson, Carol Durham, Emily Dvorin, Lucia Matzger, Chris Motley, and Myrna Tatar. Nice showing! Closes February 27 – a "must see." Ed.

Marty Jonas has a **solo show** at the Marilyn O'Rourke Art Gallery at the **Benecia Public Library**, 150 East L St., Benecia. M-Th 10am – 9pm; Fri – Sun 12 – 6pm. **Feb 20 – March 27**. Opening Reception on Saturday, Feb 21 from 2 – 4 pm. Show title is **CIRCLING FIBERS: from filling the form to creating the form**.

EDGE ART GROUP EXHIBIT at **Falkirk Cultural Center**, “**EDGE ON EDGE**”, 1408 Mission Avenue in San Rafael.

Jan 23 - March 7

Hours: Tues - Fri, 1 pm-5 pm. Sat, 10 am-5pm

....*Amusing, poignant, somber, beautiful, brash---*

F/D artists are Jeanette Carr, Cynthia Jensen, Shoko Kageyama Klyce, Giselle Kappus, Nancy Ziegler Nodelman, Melody Oxarart, Cecelia Thorner, Stuart Wagner and Ventana Amico.

At the **SF Design Center**, **Lucy Matzger** is showing her work in the Galleria at the **Tansu Design Showroom**, 101 Henry Adams St., Suite 320, in San Francisco, in the restaurant on 3rd floor. **Tansu Design showroom** known for sophisticated Asian home collections, is not open weekends. Worth a visit.

For the **April meeting**, we will go to de Young, to see the fashion/costume show.

Hostess Marcia shared a promotional email letter she'd received from Vista4Art.com, offering to feature your art in their book. No fee to enter your art image. However, you are required to buy the book for over \$100. Many of us receive similar **offers for publication in art books** (there are oh-so-many) and we want to **warn** each other to read the fine print on such offers.

Next meeting: ~ Remember to RSVP to our hostess ~
JULINE BEIER'S house, 22 Crecienta Lane, Sausalito,
on March 11, 2015 Phone: 331-0113

Directions: From HWY 101 North or South,

take the **Spencer/Monte Mar exit.**

Follow the signs to Monte Mar and turn right onto it.

Take the first left off Monte Mar onto Crecienta Drive.

Take the first left off Crecienta Drive onto Crecienta Lane.

Go straight up and you'll be in my driveway.

I'm at 22 Crecienta Lane .

There is parking for about 7 cars in the driveway and about 3 cars to the left of the driveway and if by any chance you cannot park there then park on Crecienta Drive and walk up.

Respectfully Submitted

Ventana Amico on Feb. 12, 2015

It was a long meeting.