

## AJF FALL TRIP DELIGHTS ATTENDEES FROM ALL OVER Collectors, Artists, and Gallery Owners Meet

Two dozen members of the Art Jewelry Forum (AJF) enjoyed an action-packed visit to the San Francisco Bay Area (Oct. 21st - 23rd). In three days we managed to visit one arts/craft school, two museums, two artist's studios, three collectors' homes and six galleries. "The Art Jewelry Forum has, in a very short time, begun to have a significant, positive impact on the field of art jewelry and metalsmithing through its support of artists, publications, collectors, and events such as this," noted artist Keith Lewis.

### A Look at Art Jewelry's Roots

At the Oakland Museum, Suzanne Baizerman (Imogene Gieling Curator of Crafts and Decorative Arts) gave members a tour of the Margaret de Patta

collection. de Patta (1903-64) was an internationally known jeweler and pioneer of the modern art jewelry movement. Harriete Estel Berman then gave a brief tour of the Museum's recent jewelry collection and later in the trip hosted us at her studio.

Early influencers of the art jewelry movement Imogene ("Tex") Gieling, Florence Resnikoff and merry renk gathered in the Museum's collection room to show and discuss their work.



Shown here is merry renk with one of the crowns for which she is known.

At the Museum's Collectors Gallery, AJF members saw the Site Specific show, assembled by the Metal Arts Guild, enjoying the opportunity to see (and purchase) work by artists not necessarily represented in major craft shows and galleries.

## UPCOMING EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

The annual conference of the Society of North American Goldsmith's (SNAG) is right around the corner and Art Jewelry Forum members have received a personal invitation to attend from SNAG President, Don Friedlich:

"On behalf of the Society of North American Goldsmith's, I am pleased to extend a personal invitation to the members of the Art Jewelry Forum to attend our annual conference, The Status of the Hand, in Boston, March 8 to 11, 2000. This international gathering will bring together the leading figures in the fields of jewelry and metalsmithing as well as many emerging artists. We have arranged a stimulating program of speakers, exhibitions, and social events, and I am confident you will find it well worth the trip. Lecturers include J. Fred Woell, Joe Wood, Pier Voulkos, Boris Baily, Bruce Metcalf, Kathleen Browne, and many others. Pier Cavalan will be coming from Australia and Jane Adam from England. Among the many exhibition venues will be Mobilia Gallery, the Society of Arts and Crafts, and Massachusetts College of Art. Included in the program will be the presentation of your first Art Jewelry Forum Emerging Artist Award.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS *Continued from Page 1*

The site of the conference is the elegant Royal Sonesta Hotel, a first-class facility in the heart of Cambridge. I hope you can join our festivities."

If you have any questions about registration please call: Jeanette Helfrich or Liz Lenard at 630-579-3272.

But wait, there's more. Wednesday, March 8th, will be an AJF day organized by Libby and Joanne Cooper of Mobilia Gallery, including speakers, a gallery visit, possibly a private visit to a collector's home, and dinner. See newsletter insert for details.

Mark your calendars now for Seattle in October, the 11th -14th specifically. Karen Lorene of Facere Jewelry Art Gallery has taken the lead in planning a number of opportunities for AJF members to experience art jewelry venues, including the following: The Metals Guild Symposium at the University of Washington on October 14; "Translucent/Opaque: Glass Jewelry," curated by Margery Aronson for Facere Jewelry Art Gallery, with a private lecture for AJF members by Margery; and a bit further south, Mia McEldowney is curating a show opening September 30th at the Tacoma Art Museum. We'll all be hearing more about these plans as they continue to develop.

And for those who really like to plan ahead, make note of the first AJF trip to the southwest in mid-February 2001 to Phoenix, where Joanne Rapp is planning the itinerary.

So no matter what part of the country you are from, there will be an Art Jewelry Forum event nearby for you to enjoy. In addition to the events of each trip, there is the added benefit of meeting other AJF members and sharing your love of art jewelry with them.

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## **BETWEEN THE PAGES: Expanding Our Knowledge of Art Jewelry**

The world of art jewelry is not just confined to North America, as we know. But how can we become knowledgeable about what is happening in other countries when we can't get to all the shows and exhibitions? Well, Charon Kransen has some ideas - 425 of them to be specific. That's the number of books on the list he has available. He will be showing all the titles at the SNAG conference in Boston and is happy to send books "on approval" if you want to check them out in advance. Here are just a couple of titles that piqued our interest:

Jewelry Moves - Ornament for the 21st Century - about

the ways of looking at and enjoying contemporary studio jewelry. A passionate survey of the current state of the art, it brings together the finest and the most innovative jewelry designs from around the world. Organized by the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh during the Edinburgh International Festival 1998. 112 pages, 100 color illustrations. \$40.

Design Sourcebook Jewelry, David Watkins - authoritatively written by a respected jeweler and academic, this sourcebook features the best of contemporary jewelry from all over the world with the emphasis on new makers, whose work is at the leading edge of design, a wide range of natural and synthetic materials is featured. 128 pages, 250 color illustrations. \$35.

If you would like a copy of the complete list, please call Charon Kransen at 212-627-5073.

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## **NEW BOARD AT HELM GOING INTO NEW YEAR**

Last fall the former board transitioned to the new board, with some members continuing on. We said goodbye with tremendous thanks to board members Susan Beech, Susan Cummins and Barbara Waldman.

Our current board follows. We'll have more to say about what they are accomplishing in our next newsletter but for now we wanted you to know who they are and their areas of responsibility.

**President** - Sharon Campbell. As chair, Sharon's focus this year is on expanding membership and awareness of AJF.

**Vice-President** - currently open. This position coordinates the AJF trips and events throughout the year. As you can see from the article above, we have most of the events for 2000 underway. We just need someone to guide them through to completion. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Sharon Campbell for more information.

**Secretary** - Donna Briskin. Donna moves from treasurer to this position, including parliamentarian, to document the activities of AJF.

**Treasurer** - Elizabeth Shypertt. She works on the budgets and maintains our membership roster.

**Publicity** - Pat Rodimer. This is a new position, responsible for producing the newsletter and promoting AJF events.

**Grants/Acquisitions & Museum Liaison** - Judy Bloomfield. A continuing board member with a new assignment for these important tasks.

## AJF FALL TRIP

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### Don't Just Wear it, Hang it!

At Deb Lozier's studio, we viewed a jewelry installation project, assembled by the Metal Arts Guild, depicting 14 different examples of innovative ways to display jewelry - other than by wearing it, hiding it in a cabinet or simply hanging it on the wall. This is an excellent example of what the Art Jewelry Forum can inspire - the project was an outgrowth of a panel discussion earlier in the year by AJF members to the Metal Arts Guild, which prompted a spirited discussion about jewelry as art that should be displayed.



Seeing artists in their own studios was another trip highlight. Here Deb Lozier demonstrates torch enameling, a process she uses in her own work and teaches to others.

### Teaching in Action

At the California College of Arts & Crafts, we admired student work, then saw slide lectures by Bay Area metal arts teachers - Marilyn and Jack da Silva, Mack McCall, Julia Turner, Christine Dhein (representing Alan Revere), and Dawn Nakanishi.

Moving on to the Richmond Art Center, the group toured the 4th International Juried Enamel Exhibition. Judy Stone, co-coordinator of the show, gave us a brief history of post-war trends in enameling, and some pointers on how to judge the quality of enamel jewelry.

### Living with Your Collection

So just how do we live with what we collect? AJF members had a special opportunity to see how three different collectors (Katie Gibson, Sylvia Elsesser, and Susan Beech) have incorporated their collections into their home environments. That each was so different from the others served to underscore how personal our selection decisions are - whether they be for art or home decor - and just another reminder that there is no one set way to do this.

Trip organizer, Carol Windsor, appreciates a piece of jewelry at Velvet da Vinci, one of the many galleries we visited over three days. Kudos to Carol: without her efforts, this trip couldn't have happened.



### Beyond the Obvious

After a day and a half spent visiting collectors' homes, galleries (DeNovo, Tercera, Velvet da Vinci and Susan Cummins) and artists' studios, the trip concluded with a panel discussion and reception at the San Francisco Craft & Folk Art Museum. We saw the new show "Beyond the Obvious: Rethinking Jewelry," curated by Susan Cummins, and heard a panel discussion among four of the six artists represented in the show.



Susan Cummins throws out a question to artist Keith Lewis, while Jaime Bennett listens.

The high level of interaction with the artists was clearly one of the trips highlights: "This weekend was the first time I had a chance to interact with the makers - that was one of the highlights for me," noted Dorothy Saxe. "I enjoyed the high level of conversation and the issues that were discussed by the artists and gallery owners. It was a wonderful, stimulating mix, and an opportunity to rethink my position as a collector of art jewelry."

The three-day trip ended on a gracious note with dinner at the home of Susan and Bill Beech, where we had a chance to reflect on all we had seen, heard, and experienced.

Article by Jennifer Gans; photos by Emily Gurtman.

#### HELP US HELP AJF GROW

We now have our very own brochure, which is ideal to use in recruiting new members. As many current members have told us, the way they came on board was through a personal connection with a current AJF member, such as yourself. So, if you have several friends for whom the Art Jewelry Forum is a match with their interests please talk with them and provide each with our brochure. If you buy art jewelry from one or more local galleries, you can also help by asking the gallery owners to display our brochure, making it available to their customers. Just call Pat Rodimer at 415-626-7755 and let her know how many brochures you would like.

## CALENDAR

### **Susan Cummins Gallery** 415-383-0244

12 Miller Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Myra Mimplitsch-Gray "Studies in Chain Mail,"  
January 4-29. Kiff Slemmons "Points," February 1 -  
March 4. Marilyn da Silva "Aviary," March 7 - April 1.

### **DeNovo** 650-327-1256

220 University Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Annual Valentine Show, featuring Pat Flynn, Reiko  
Ishiyama, Claire Sanford and others, January 29 -  
February 18.

### **Helen Drutt Gallery** 215-735-1625

1721 Walnut Street, 2nd floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

"Twentieth Century Art at the Turn of the  
Millenium," through February 19. "Peter Chang:  
Selected Works," February 26 - March 25. Daniel  
Kruger, April 1 - 29.

### **Jewelers' Werk Galerie** 202-293-0249

2000 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Collections of work by gallery artists, January- March.

### **materia/The Hand and the Spirit**

602-949-1262

4222 North Marshall Way  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Edith Axer and Judith Yvonne, January 3 - 31.  
Deborah Krupenia, February 1 - 28. Ruth  
Taubman, March 1 - 31.

### **Mobilia Gallery** 617-876-2109

358 Huron Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138

"Uncommon Sense - The Jewelry of Danile Jocz,"  
January 11 - February 15. "Jamie Bennett/Heather  
White - New Jewelry and Collaborative Pieces,"  
February 12 - March 4. "Structure, Symbol &  
Substance," March 7 - April 4.

### **OXOXO Gallery** 410-466-9696

1617 Sulgrave Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21209

Maryland Art Institute College of Art Faculty  
Show, January 9 - 29. "Fun and Games," featuring  
Roberta and Dave Williamson, Romona Solberg,  
Chris Darway and others, February 5 - 29  
"Contemporary European Jewelry," curated by  
Charon Kransen, March 4 - April 5.

### **Linda Richman Jewelry** 414-289-0886

241 North Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

"Ring in the New," featuring Sam Shaw, Linda  
Threadgill, Barbara Heinrich and others, January  
21 - February 28.

### **Other Venues:**

#### **Baltimore Museum of Art**

12 Art Museum Drive (32nd & Charles St.)  
Baltimore, MD 21218

"Joyce Scott - Kicking it with the Old Masters,"  
January 23 - May 21.

### **Palo Alto Art Center** 650-329-2366

1313 Newell Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

"The Thought of Things: Jewelry by Kiff  
Slemmons," through April 30.

### **The San Diego Historical Society**

619-232-6203

"Elegant Fantasy: The Jewelry of Arline Fisch,"  
February 11, the first retrospective of this con-  
temporary art jeweler.

### **The Society of Arts and Crafts**

175 Newbury St.  
Boston, MA 02116

"International Alternative Jewelry," March 4 -  
April 30. "Drawing the Lines: Selections from  
Jewelers' Notebooks," curated by Gail Brown, at  
the 101 Arch St. Gallery, March 7 - April 28.

The deadline for receiving material for the  
next issue of our newsletter is April 10.  
Please send your contributions directly to  
Pat Rodimer, 59 Webster Street, San  
Francisco, CA 94117. Calendar contribu-  
tions should be directed to Bruce Metcalf  
at: 610-771-0289 fax or metcalf-  
LEFOLL@worldnet.att.net. If you have any  
questions about this publication, please call  
Pat at 415-626-7755.

# ajf

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