

May 2007

Volume 29 Number 2

President's Letter

Camilla Van Vooren

I begin this letter on a sad note with a memorial to Frederick R. Mayer, one of Denver's most prominent collectors and philanthropists who died on Valentine's Day at the age of 79. Mr. Mayer, an oilman who founded Exeter Drilling Co, was a noted collector of stamps, coins, currency, and art, specifically Spanish Colonial Art. Mayer was passionate in his love and support for museums and collections. He was a member of the Denver Art Museum Board since 1975, including three terms as chairman. Mayer and his wife, Jan, endowed the New World Department

at DAM and have donated hundreds of objects to the art museum, many of which are on view in the New World Galleries. The Mayers sponsor an annual symposium on Spanish Colonial Art at the DAM, which features the work of prominent national and international scholars. Over my sixteen years at WCCFA, I have had the distinct honor of working with Jan and Frederick who always had the utmost concern for the proper conservation of their collection. I will always remember Mr. Mayer's kind and welcoming demeanor; he will be truly missed in Denver's art community.

The 2007 mid-year board meeting took place at the Getty Villa on February 16. In the works: Chris Stavroudis, acting Treasurer, and WAAC's Web Editor, Walter Henry, are working on an online credit card payment system for annual dues, meeting registration, and other WAAC payments by the membership. Among the other issues discussed were vendor displays and vendor sponsorship at the annual meeting. Vendors can have tables with brochures, etc., in the break areas (as the hosting institution permits) free of charge. There are a couple of vendors who have graciously offered to donate funds to help sponsor coffee break costs at this year's meeting. The Board set a minimum of \$300.00 for such sponsorship in the future. These donations will offset registration fees and are greatly appreciated!

It's time again for that perennial favorite: the WAAC election! Nominations for two new members-at-large and a new vice president for 2007/2008 are now being accepted by Vice President, Susanne Friend. Please consider donating some of your time to our fine organization by running for a Board position. See former President Laura Downey Staneff's excellent description of board member duties in her President's Letter from May 2006 (v. 28, No. 2) or feel free to call me or any of the board members if you have any questions. You are welcome to nominate yourself, so don't be shy!

Plans are progressing for the annual meeting in Denver, September 15-17 at the Colorado Historical Society and the Denver Art Museum. Part of the program for Sunday, September 16th, will have the theme of museum expansion. DAM conservators will be on hand to share their experiences with the opening of the Hamilton Wing last fall. I encourage anyone who works for institutions that have undergone expansions or have moved into new buildings to consider joining in this discussion. Conservation, mount-making, moving, storage, public relations, and events coordination are just a few sub-topics that could apply. I hope to end the session with a panel discussion. For the rest of the meeting, talks from all specialties are welcome. (see the Call for Papers on page 3)

This year the annual meeting will again be preceded by a workshop. Yosi Pozeilov, Senior Photographer at the Conservation Center at LACMA, will be offering his popular course on digital photography in a day-long session held at the Colorado Historical Society on Friday, September 14. (see page 2 for details)

I am pleased to announce that the opening reception will be held Friday evening at the Kirkland Museum. Vance Kirkland was an important 20th-century Colorado artist whose home and studio is the oldest commercial art building in Denver. Kirkland was one of Colorado's foremost abstract painters and was instrumental in establishing an art community in Denver. He founded the D.U. School of Art

Contents

President's Letter	1
Annual Meeting News	3
Regional News	5
Health & Safety:	11
Titanium Dioxide Listed as a Carcinogen	
and	
California Proposes New Regulations That Will Affect Conservation X-Radiography	
Generic Hydrocarbon Solvents: a Guide to Nomenclature	13
<i>by Alan Phenix</i>	
A New Approach to Cleaning Iron-Stained Marble Surfaces	23
<i>by Matt Cushman and Richard Wolbers</i>	
Membership	29
Book Review	30
AYMHM	31

President's letter, continued

and was one of the founders of the Denver Art Museum. The museum contains Kirkland's paintings and watercolors and his remarkable collection of decorative arts, said to be the largest on view in the United States. Nearly 3000 objects represent every major 20th-century design style. Hugh Grant, the curator of the museum, has done a remarkable job in keeping the Kirkland Museum in existence. Kirkland was a father figure to him, and he worked as an assistant in Kirkland's studio and is very knowledgeable about the artist's technique. Mr. Grant will be on hand to present a brief overview of the history of the museum. I encourage you not to miss the opportunity for an intimate view of this unique collection.

The annual banquet will be held Sunday night at the Wynkoop Brewery, Colorado's oldest brewery. Housed in the historic J. S. Brown Mercantile Building, the brewery gets its name from Edward W. Wynkoop, the first territorial sheriff of the region. This is a fun place with pool and billiards upstairs and a comedy club downstairs. The bar, restaurant, and the Mercantile Room, the location of the banquet, is on the main floor, the former location of the Show Room of the Mercantile Building. The Wynkoop is located in Denver's Lower Downtown, aka LoDo, a twenty-block area where the origins of the city can be traced back to 1858 when gold was discovered at the confluence of the Platte River and Cherry Creek. In the early days, the area had a notorious reputation for the gambling, drinking, and wild living. Designated a historic district in 1988, it is now one of Denver's most popular areas for galleries, restaurants, shopping, and nightlife.

Note: Due to the popularity of the new Hamilton Wing of the Denver Art Museum, the annual meeting was scheduled, one year ago, around the single day that Schlessman Hall at the DAM was available for use by WAAC members. I extend my regrets to individuals who will not be able to attend because of religious observances.

WAAC Newsletter (ISSN 1052-0066) is a publication of the nonprofit Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC). It is published three times per year, in January, May, and September. WAAC Newsletter is printed on alkaline paper. Copyright 2005 Western Association for Art Conservation.

EDITOR

Carolyn Tallent

REGIONAL NEWS

Susanne Friend

TECHNICAL EXCHANGE

Albrecht Gumlich

HEALTH & SAFETY

Chris Stavroudis

ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Susanne Friend

COPY EDITOR Wendy Partridge

Photocopying

To make academic course packets that include articles from WAAC Newsletter, contact the authors of the articles directly.

Note to Authors

Authors of articles and other contributions accepted for publication in WAAC Newsletter assign to WAAC Newsletter the right to publish their work in both print and electronic form and to archive it and make it permanently retrievable electronically. Authors retain copyright, however, and may republish their work in any way they wish.

Disclaimer

The Western Association for Art Conservation does not recommend particular individuals, businesses, treatments, products, or services. WAAC Newsletter is simply a vehicle for the presentation of information from various sources. Publication of articles or reports in the Newsletter should not be construed as an endorsement of their content by WAAC. Opinions expressed in articles published in the Newsletter are those of the authors.

Deadline

Contributions for the September *Newsletter* should be received by the Editor before **August, 2007**.