

CONNECTIONS Blanton Volunteer News

AUGUST 2008

Contents

1. Volunteer Recognition 2008
2. Message from Martha
3. Fall Calendar of Events
4. Volunteer Spotlight: Richard and Marcia Jinkins
5. Early Fiberglass
6. Haiku from the Blanton Member Appreciation Party
7. Blanton Staff Spotlight: James Swan
8. Match Blanton Employee Faces with Names
9. Have You Seen These Websites?
10. Dan's Corner
11. Sketching at the Blanton
12. Two Shows: One City

Volunteer Recognition 2008

Thank goodness for all our wonderful Blanton volunteers. We recognize them once a year to thank them for hours of service, project assistance and special duties such as working in the Wilkinson Center for Prints and Drawings, writing for the newsletter or helping host *B scene* every month. This year the event was hosted in late May by Karen and Warren Freund at their home in West Austin. Everyone enjoyed relaxing and mingling since we normally see each other in a work setting. This year volunteers contributed over 6,300 hours of their time, collecting 700 email addresses and handing out over 7,000 audio guides to visitors. We surveyed 600 visitors for our customer service assessment and hosted over 2,000 children and families for various family events. Congratulations!



Blanton volunteers Faith Perry, Cathy Morris and Lorraine Miller at Volunteer Recognition 2008
Photo: Martha Bradshaw



Shauna Martinich helped plan the volunteer recognition event
Photo: Martha Bradshaw

Message from Martha

We have exciting news at the Blanton. We will be moving into our Edgar A. Smith Building this fall and will have a wonderful café, store and auditorium to use. We will have beautiful meeting rooms, a classroom and all our staff in one corner of the campus. Join me in helping to host the new building and greet visitors there. We will have a series of events to herald the new building's official arrival and an orientation with a tour for all volunteers. Spread the word to all your friends that the Blanton needs new volunteers and we'll include them in our fall calendar. Stay tuned....

Fall Calendar of Events

Volunteer Board Meeting	Tuesday	9-9	6-8 pm
Austin Museum Day	Sunday	9-14	1-5 pm
Volunteer Round Up	Thursday	9-18	7-8 pm
New Volunteer Orientation	Sunday	9-28	3-4 pm
Safety Training	Friday	10-10	1-2 pm
	Sunday	10-12	1-2 pm
New Volunteer Orientation	Sunday	10-12	3-4 pm
Downtown Walking Tour	Sunday	10-19	2-4 pm
Smith Building Tour	Saturday	11-1	2-3 pm
Winter Party	Thursday	1-15	6-7 pm



Martha Bradshaw, Head of Visitor and Volunteer Services
photo: Charla Wood



Edgar A. Smith Building, Blanton Museum Of Art
Photo: Martha Bradshaw



Richard and Marcia Jenkins
Photo: Martha Bradshaw

Volunteer Spotlight: Richard and Marcia Jenkins

If you've been to the Blanton on a Tuesday afternoon, you've probably met Richard and Marcia Jenkins. Recently retired, the Jenkins have volunteered on Tuesdays for two years.

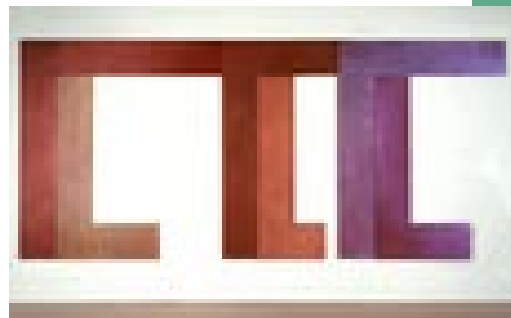
Richard grew up in Amarillo and Marcia grew up in El Paso. They came to UT in the 1970s and worked in the IT department until retirement. After retiring in March 2006, they took some time to rest and then started helping at the Blanton. They like having the opportunity to enjoy fine art, not only with the permanent collections but with the temporary exhibits as well. They are stellar at helping people and like being around beautiful works of art. They can also be found volunteering at the Wildflower Center.

If they could step inside any painting in the museum, Marcia would step inside the *Saint Cecilia* by Simon Vouet because she loves music and grew up singing and playing church music. Richard would select *Pastoral Landscape* by Claude Gellee because the first piece of original artwork he purchased was a pastoral setting. He still loves this type of artwork because it brings him peace and serenity.

Their tip for new volunteers: Volunteering is a service that should be enjoyable as well as a learning experience. If you are not a happy volunteer, then you are not providing the best service to the organization.

Early Fiberglass

This imposing larger-than-life work creates a real presence with its distinct shape and lustrous quality. An early work in fiberglass by David Novros, the seemingly simple forms, as with much minimal art, deserve closer interpretation. Six "L" shapes resemble carpenter squares and all angle to the right allowing the wall to be part of the piece. Tucked together, the three resultant pairs lead us to the idea of a triptych, which has an altar connotation to those of us with an art history background. Notice that the six smaller legs of the angles are consistently decreasing in length. The earth tones of lacquer are brought forth under Blanton gallery lights showing the warm hues of the finish are different along the edges. Compare this with the 2008 *Zen Garden* made of fiberglass currently on exhibit in the Blanton's WorkSpace.



David Novros, *Untitled*, 1967.
Lacquer on fiberglass, six parts

By Patrick Boyt

Coming to Work Space



Marcelo Pombo
La pinacoteca de los pobres

Haiku from the Blanton Member Appreciation Party

An Autumn leaf falls
Turning, flipping gently lands
Smiling at the world.
-Gracie Rocha

Crepe myrtle blooms
The pounding of the Taiko
Echoes in my heart
-Monte Rhodes

Five lakes in summer
Reflecting light from the sun
A mountain's sunrise
-Amanda White

Smash me! Downtown - Oh!
Park - No Park - Park - NO PARK - PARK
Does my bike still work?
-Anonymous

Summer nights ablaze
With prints and colors and words
All here. The Blanton
-Anonymous

Drums on the corner
Inviting ancestors home
Summer is over.
-Lauren Reichelt



James Swan, Installation Manager,
Blanton Museum of Art
Photo: Martha Bradshaw

Blanton Staff Spotlight: James T. Swan

1. Describe your job at the Blanton.

I have been the Installation Manager at the Blanton for the past 11 years. I work with an installation crew who are expert art handlers and are really nice to work with. Broadly speaking we are the people on the museum staff who have hands-on contact with the art works. This is great, it puts us in touch with the art in a very immediate way, and we feel very fortunate and privileged being able to handle our wonderful permanent collection, as well as the great art that comes in for our temporary exhibitions.

In planning for an exhibition I work most closely with the curator (on design, wall colors, gallery furniture, etc.) and the registrar (on the objects, packing, crating, etc.). My responsibilities are to make sure the exhibition is installed successfully and on time, and the art is secure and professionally handled.

2. What's your background and what training do you have for this job?

After high school I was drawn to museum work, so I studied archaeology which at that time in South Africa was a good way to get a museum job. But as it happened, it was all the other jobs I had, and interests I pursued, which helped me in installation work – working in construction, studying art, training as a picture framer, making my own furniture, house painting – all these proved useful in one way or another in museum preparation and art installation. More specifically, twelve years working as a preparator in art museums, eight of them at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, provided the practical experience I think is essential for this job.

3. What brought you to the Blanton? Seventeen years of Massachusetts winters.

4. Do you have a favorite or most memorable exhibit or painting?

Since being in the new building my favorite exhibition has been the Jorge Macchi show, *The Anatomy of Melancholy*. The title worked incredibly well with the art work, so much of which was imbued with a quiet sense of loss, couched in such beautifully deceptive simplicity.

5. What interesting thing should we know about you?

When my wife and I left South Africa in 1978 heading for Europe, we began our travels riding up through Africa on 2 old steel-frame 3-speed bicycles. While in Kenya we worked out in the bush for a professor from U Mass Boston for about 9 months, which led to 2 things:

- 1) I was offered a job in the US, and
- 2) the bikes were stolen. So I took the job and we came to live in the States.

Match Blanton Employee Faces with Names



1



2



3



4



5

Casey Erik Katy Amy Laura

Answers: page 4

Have You Seen These Websites?

<http://utbma.blogspot.com> www.notcot.org www.afonline.artistsspace.org www.drawingcenter.org
www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/yourgallery www.artlex.com www.artreview.com

Coming this fall:
Park Place Gallery Group



Dean Fleming, *Lime Line*, 1965.
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 66 in., collection of the artist,
Gardner, CO

CONNECTIONS

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The University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station D 1303
Austin, Texas 78712
www.blantonmuseum.org

**DEPARTMENT OF VISITOR
& VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

Martha Bradshaw, Head
Dan Boehl, Admissions Manager
Stephanie Rice, Events Manager

NEWSLETTER TEAM MEMBERS

Martha Bradshaw, Editor
Claude van Lingen, Layout Designer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Dan Boehl, Pat Boyt, Martha Bradshaw,
Paige Britt, Mimi Deaton,
and Randy Simpson

Martha F. Bradshaw
Head of Visitor and Volunteer Services
Blanton Museum of Art
The University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station D1303
Austin, Texas 78712

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College of Fine Arts

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Dan's Corner

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you for helping during such a busy
summer. Believe it or not, we had almost as
many visitors this July as we had in the July
of our opening year! You helped give direc-
tions, museum overviews, personal guidance,
fashion advice, and 1,797 Accoustiguides to
over 16,000 visitors this summer. And, we
still have 2 full weeks left of *Exquisite Visions
of Japan*.

Volunteers made this summer special. There were so many new
visitors to the museum and you handed them an Accoustiguide and
a map, directed them upstairs, and shared their awe of the building
and Blanton collections. In this way, you are our ambassadors.

Thanks also to those who volunteered to help with office projects.
We stuffed the special Membership Triple Threat envelopes (10% off
a membership, \$10 gift certificate to the Museum store, \$10 worth
of *B scene* tickets (Tell your friends! Offer good until September 1st!)
that helped us sell over 250 memberships.

Thank you again! You are the best!

Dan



Dan Boehl
Photo: Dan Borhl

Sketching at the Blanton

Volunteer Randy Simpson
demonstrates how pencil
sketches can be completed
later with ink to form
spontaneous images from
Blanton events and works
of art. Here Randy submit-
ted a drawing from the
poetry reading "If these
walls could speak" and
another from August's
B scene poetry slam.



Randy Simpson, with
his sketch pad
Photo: Martha Bradshaw

Two Shows: One City

This fall the Blanton Museum of Art
presents two exhibitions of artists liv-
ing in New York in the 1960s. Showing
concurrently from September 28, 2008 to
January 18, 2009, one is called *Reimag-
ining Space: The Park Place Gallery Group
in 1960s New York* and the other is *The
New York Graphic Workshop: 1964-1970*.
We are looking forward to hosting these
exhibitions.



Luis Camnitzer,
*Topological Change of a Word
Sequence 2*, 1969. Index
cards, glue, and marker

Answers to staff match game: 1. Erik 2. Casey 3. Laura 4. Katy 5. Amy