

# Peninsula Art Museum

Winter 2009

10 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, CA 94002

Volume 6, No. 1

## Coming: "Signs & Revelations" Ultimate Eye Foundation Annual Competition

This spring the Museum will present "Signs & Revelations", the annual exhibition of Winners and Finalists in the international competition sponsored by the Ultimate Eye Foundation. The exhibition opens with a reception on Sunday, March 28, from 2 to 4 p.m.

UEF founders James and Kathryn Daugherty award \$5,000 each to the two winners: one in Innovative Figure Photography, and one in Digital Art Based on Photography. Each year they review hundreds of images, searching for exceptional work in the two genres.

According to co-founder James Stanley Daugherty, "The Ultimate Eye Foundation encourages the advancement of digital photography and photography of the human figure. The award is given to living artists in appreciation for what they have done

through their creations to advance the photographic arts."

The digital artwork by Jerry Downs of Larkspur, shown above, was a finalist in a previous Ultimate Eye Foundation exhibition.❖



☞Museum Hours: Wednesday - Friday, Noon to 4 p.m.☞  
Saturday & Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

# Building Improvements: Progress!

Our beloved Manor House, home of the Museum (and the Belmont and Peninsula arts councils), is entering the age of accessibility. Two projects, accessible restrooms and an accessible front entry, are happening!

## Accessible Front Door

The Manor House has had a ramp for some years, but the six-inch step up to the front door was never dealt with. The solution is an enlargement of the entry area and expansion of the existing ramp so that they connect. Confusing? Come and see.



Museum front doors.

The contractor was actually able to duplicate the original tile (with white Carrara marble surround) and the result is handsome.❖

## Beautiful, Accessible Restrooms

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, the new Manor House restrooms should be finished and open to Twin Pines Art Center visitors. They occupy a part of the Manor House which was used for years as the Forensics Lab by Belmont's Police Department.

When the Police Department annex was removed, this portion of the building remained. Access to the handicapped-accessible facilities is through the glass door (original!) to the left of the main staircase.❖



New Restrooms

## New: the West Terrace

Remember how warm and stuffy the Gallery gets during receptions? And how ugly the view of the side porch was when, in desperation, the emergency exit door was opened? That has changed.



New West Terrace

When the building was painted during the 2008 restoration, the rusty awning and window wall were removed, steps were repaired, and a handrail was added. Now we have pried up the old floor tiles, or what was left of them, swept, added a few chairs, and voila! The West Terrace!❖

## And Now: Storage and Work Space

Of course, demolition of the old plastic awning and window wall meant we lost our storage and workspace for sculpture pedestals. All those pedestals are now inconveniently stacked in the small room which connects the lobby to the new restrooms.

From bad news has come good news: the City's Public Works staff is working on conversion of the old walk-in refrigerator/freezer (at the back of the building, behind the Gallery) into two small rooms, one for storage and one for prep and maintenance. The City's restoration project architect, Ken Hall, is designing an "invisible door" for access to the back corner of the Gallery. What could be better??❖



Access to Gallery from inside the walk-in refrigerator.

## Peninsula Art Museum

### Governing Board

Chair: Ruth von Jahnke Waters  
Arabella Decker  
Christine Bennett, Ph.D.  
James Stanley Daugherty  
Jerry Emanuel  
Rosemary Lanyon  
Linda Stack  
Marshall Warshauer

### Staff

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Docents - Cynthia Stern  
Photography - Kay Podolsky  
Catalogues - Kay Podolsky  
Mailing - Ruth Silnes  
Website - Ellen Silva

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# "Xpresiones!" Monotypes and Sculpture by Gustavo Ramos Rivera

"Xpresiones! Monotypes and Cpnstructions by Gustavo Ramos Rivera" features thirteen monotypes and four very large constructions by San Francisco artist Gustavo Ramos Rivera (through March 15).

According to Jerry Emanuel, exhibition coordinator, "His art reveals radiant visual flavors which form the purest fruits of Modern Mexican Aesthetics."

"Gestural, personal, and open" are words used by Guest Curator Melissa Behravesh (Smith Andersen Editions) to describe Rivera's images, seven of which were created in 2008.

"This body of work battles with the darker subconscious, revealing windows of Rivera's celebrated color in moments of clarity" according to Behravesh. "Gustavo Ramos Rivera uses his painterly hand and eloquent draftsmanship to chart his fragmented and overlapping experiences."

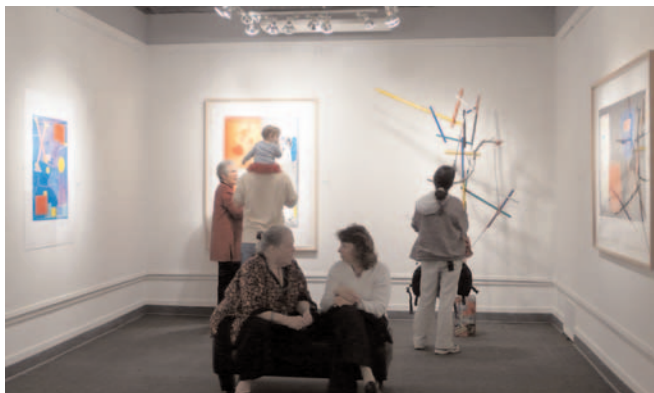
Robert Flynn Johnson, recently retired as Chief Curator of the Achenback Collection,



Ramos Rivera's monotypes and sculptures share the spotlight.

stated, "Gustavo Ramos Rivera is an artist who surprises, delights, and sometimes overwhelms the uninitiated with his extraordinary exuberant and colorful draftsmanship."

"Ramos Rivera is probably the least premeditated artist I have ever encountered. His is not an art of calculation, but that of an artist whose activity involves making his inner feelings visible through the application and arrangement of color and line."



Museum visitors enjoyed the exhibition during the Jan. 11 reception.

The monotypes range in size, with several as large as 5 ft. by 3.5 ft. The sculptures are even larger, ranging up to 8 ft. in height. Thematically, there are clear relationships between the two methods of art creation, and the X in "Xpresiones" reflects the recurring symbology.

Ramos Rivera was born and raised in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, and moved to San Francisco in 1969. He acknowledges Rufino Tamayo and Richard Diebenkorn as important influences on his art.

Independent art scholar Bruce Nixon wrote, "Ramos Rivera belongs to a generation of Mexican artists that emerged between two distinctive eras: on the one hand, a society still clearly marked by Mesoamerican traditions, the mestizo land whose heritage had been both simplified and compellingly codified by the Mexican muralists; and on the other, a postwar culture moving inexorably beyond the grasp of those traditions as well as their representations, one in the process of becoming truly international."

An outstanding bilingual catalogue of Ramos Rivera's 2006 retrospective was co-published by the San Jose Museum of Art and the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art. ❖



Ramos Rivera's sculpture, created between 1980 and 1985, references the "X" in "Xpresiones".

# New Acquisitions

Five more paintings by Alexander Nepote were donated by Dr. Robert Kraft to the Peninsula Art Museum's Permanent Collection in late December, 2008, bringing the Museum's holdings to 12 works by Nepote.

During her lifetime, Robby Lee Kraft of Hillsborough (Mrs. Robert Kraft) collected oils, watercolors, and sculpture by a number of established regional artists. Of these, Alexander Nepote is the best-known, nationally as well as regionally.

One of Nepote's earliest watercolors is hung over the Library fireplace. The five paintings displayed in the Anteroom represent mid-career collages and later watercolors, which became increasingly abstract and transparent.

After retiring as chair of the Art Department at San Francisco State University, the long-time Millbrae resident organized the San Mateo County Arts Council's first Gallery Committee in 1978 and oversaw the conversion of the George Center home's kitchen into a formal art gallery.❖

## Museum Mission

The Peninsula Art Museum showcases and archives outstanding exhibitions of innovative works by artists who engage San Francisco Peninsula residents and visitors in the experience of aesthetic creativity.

**July 8 – September 20**

**Jo Hanson  
and the**

**"Crab Orchard Cemetery"**

Jo Hanson (19?? – 2007), founder of the Artist in Residence Program at SF Recycling (NorCal Transfer Station) in 1990, left a major legacy to the art world.

The single best known of Hanson's works, the "Crab Orchard Cemetery", was exhibited in museum and university galleries across the country. For this installation, she duplicated the tombstones (in styrofoam and ink) and photographed the environment of the cemetery. She recorded the birds and other environmental sounds to complete the visitor's experience.

Most of Crab Orchard Cemetery, some of her sculpture and paintings, and her documentation are now in the Museum's Permanent Collection.

Jo Hanson's life will be honored in the Anteroom presentation. Her Crab Orchard Cemetery will be revisited in the Gallery.❖

# In the Neighborhood

## **Weigand Gallery, NDNU**

Robert Ortbal, "Benign: Growth & Neglect", through Feb 28

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, Noon-4

Gallery Benefit: Saturday, Feb. 21, 4-7p.m.

## **Belmont Arts Council, Twin Pines Art Center**

Serigraphy: Fred Gerhauser, Jane Leddy, Gail Mackenzie, Victoria Monroe, Susan Trubow, through Feb. 28

Hours: Wednesday - Friday, noon-4; Weekends, 1-4

## **1870 Gallery, 1870 Ralston Ave.**

Kathleen Podolsky, "Extended Perspectives", 3-D Photos, through March 15

Hours: Thursday-Sunday, 1-5p.m.

## Donations

Have you considered creating a cultural legacy for yourself and/or your family?

A meaningful contribution to the Museum's Building Fund will make a big difference as the Museum moves ahead with its plans for a first-class, full-service art museum serving the Peninsula. ❖

## Membership

The new year is well under way, with our first exhibition of 2009 installed and on view through March 15.

Have you already renewed your Museum membership? If not, please rejoin and help support the four exhibitions and special educational programs planned for the year.

Are there specific issues you would like to see addressed in the Museum? Favorite genres that you feel are not shown often enough? Wonderful innovative artists in the region that we don't know about yet? Please tell us! ❖

## Membership Form

Ind.-\$45/yr Family-\$65/yr Supporter-\$100/yr Benefactor-\$500+/yr  
Patron-\$1,000+/yr

I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Museum Building Fund.  
All contributions are much appreciated. ❖

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_



## **Peninsula Art Museum**

10 Twin Pines Lane, Twin Pines Park  
Belmont, CA 94002

[www.peninsulamuseum.org](http://www.peninsulamuseum.org)

### **The Dream**

Outstanding Design

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Museum Store

Art Reference Library

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