

SUN LETTER

THE PEOPLE, EVENTS, & EXHIBITS OF THE GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

SPRING 2022 Volume 31, No. 1

Intent and Opportunity in Making Exhibitions

As I write this in mid-March, the Grace Hudson Museum is planning a bus trip on April 2 to the de Young Museum in San Francisco to see the exhibition, *Jules Tavernier and the Elem Pomo*. Resumption of the bus trip, which for many years has been a popular and somewhat regular event, is cause enough for celebration. It signals the return to a level of public health security we have not enjoyed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The celebration, though, also extends to the exhibition, which itself represents a significant evolution in the way fine art museums choose to interpret the experience and cultures of Native peoples within the context of Euro-American art traditions.

For those of you who saw the show via the bus trip—or made the trip on your own—you can attest to the equal weight given in the exhibition to Jules Tavernier’s artistic career in America and also to the artistry, culture, devastation, and renewal of Pomo peoples in the region encompassing Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties. The catalyst for creating the show was the acquisition of Tavernier’s prodigious 1878 oil painting, *Dance in a Subterranean Roundhouse at Clear Lake, California*, by The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2016. One could easily imagine The Met curating an exhibition solely devoted to Tavernier’s work as a way of exploring the artist and what drew him to an exotic life in the American West. They pursued a more enlightened and richer path, however, collaborating with the de Young and multiple Pomo



This large 1890s Pomo basket, on loan from the Grace Hudson Museum, marks the entrance to the Tavernier/Elem Pomo exhibition at the de Young Museum.

The Grace Hudson Museum is proud to have played a role in the creation of *Jules Tavernier and the Elem Pomo*, having lent a number of items from our Pomo collections, especially for the de Young presentation. At this point in time and history, there is increasing awareness and demand for bringing forth the voices of communities long neglected in the larger American story. Museums have an important role to play in that effort. As The Met and the de Young have artfully demonstrated, it starts with imagination, creativity, and, most importantly, intent.

Meanwhile, closer to home, we have decided to extend our current exhibition, *The Art of Collecting: New Additions to the Grace Hudson Museum*, by four weeks. Its final day will now be May 8. What started as a simple show with minimal interpretation (largely to fill a short gap in our exhibition schedule) turned into something much more significant as we expanded our goals to look at the factors and ethics of what, why, and how we collect. In doing so, it became evident that richer interpretation could serve as a statement of what the Grace Hudson Museum has been, currently is, and what it promises to be in the future. The longer exhibition run provides greater opportunity for our community to get acquainted with us anew, and for us to impress upon visitors from out of the area our commitment and ability to deliver intriguing, complex, diverse, and inclusive stories around the lives and legacies of Grace, the Carpenter-Hudson family, and the Pomo peoples who have inhabited this area longer than anyone else.

— David Burton, *Director*

artists, scholars, and cultural leaders—including former Grace Hudson Museum director, Sherrie Smith-Ferri—to organize a show that squarely puts Native peoples into the center of the historical and artistic narrative rather than relegating them to the margins and shadows as has been done all too often.



Sun House Guild

**GRACE HUDSON
MUSEUM & Sun House**

For current hours and admission fees,
please visit our website, call, or email:

www.gracehudsonmuseum.org

(707) 467-2836

info@gracehudsonmuseum.org

Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House Staff

David Burton, DIRECTOR

Alyssa Boge, CURATOR

Kristen Marrow and Diana Thomas,
RECEPTIONISTS & DOCENT
COORDINATORS

Toni Wheeler, GIFT SHOP MANAGER

Sun House Guild Board

Toni Wheeler, PRESIDENT

Lynda Coursey, VICE-PRESIDENT

Barbara Blake, SECRETARY

Candace Horsley, TREASURER

Donald McMullen, ASST. TREASURER

Julie Beardsley, Ginevra (Giny) Chandler,

Irma Turner, Bonnie Weiss, TRUSTEES

Grace Hudson Museum Endowment Fund

Monte Hill, CHAIR

Ed Eversole, VICE-CHAIR

John Moon, INVESTMENT CHAIR

Carolyn Welch, TREASURER

Michaelyn Wipf, SECRETARY

Mike Geniella, Wanda Mannon,

Myrna Oglesby, BOARD MEMBERS

Dedication

This issue of the Sunletter is dedicated to the memory of Adele Pruitt

Shopping, Fundraising, Gratitude

As a volunteer in the Gift Shop for the past several years, I looked forward to the three or four days a month that I was able to spend in the Museum. Now, in my role as Gift Shop Manager, I'm typically spending three or four days a week there. I've had the experience of greeting visitors from just about everywhere, including many from Mendocino County who have been discovering, or rediscovering, this place that we value so highly.

Museum visitors are often pleasantly surprised at the variety of handcrafted items by local makers and vendors on offer in the shop, including some very fine original art, and exquisite examples of traditional work by Native artisans. Beadwork, woodwork, ceramics, fiber art, jewelry, and more are featured, and the selection changes frequently. We've expanded our book selection to include more fiction and poetry by Native authors. And we always have something fun for kids! The shop is open during Museum hours.

May 7 is the date for *A Corner in the Gardens*, our fundraising event to benefit both the Museum and Art Center Ukiah, originally planned for last July and deferred due to dangerously hot weather. The Sun House Guild Board and Museum staff are once again working together with the Art Center Ukiah Board to create a fun outdoor afternoon listening to music, enjoying cold beverages and delicious hors d'oeuvres, observing the creative process of artists in different media, and bidding on the artwork being created that day. Details about this plein-air event can be found on page 3 of this *Sunletter*, and on the Home and Museum Events pages of the Museum's website.

Finally, after 16 years as an incredible member of the Sun House Guild Board, Holly Brackmann made the decision to step off, effective January 1. As an accomplished fiber artist and educator, Holly brought a valuable perspective to the Board, and contributed in many different ways to the growth and success of the Museum. We are grateful for the ongoing support of Holly and her husband, Roger Foote, and we hope and expect to see them both at Museum functions in the future.

– Toni Wheeler, *Sun House Guild President*

Memorial Gifts

Helena Bell, in memory of Paul Wagner

Sharon Dauer, in memory of Marguerite McCowen Crown

Lisa Frost, in memory of Florita & Richard Frost

Jane Rosenberg, in memory of Gene Warfield, who introduced her family to Grace Hudson



A Corner in the Gardens:

A Fundraiser for the Corner Gallery and Grace Hudson Museum

Saturday, May 7, 2022 ♦ 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

with Live Music by BP3

Hors d'Oeuvres ♦ A Complimentary Beverage ♦ Cash Bar ♦ Wine Pull

Plein-air Art created during the event will be available for auction

Tickets \$50 per person ♦ \$35 for ages 35 and under

Purchase online at www.gracehudsonmuseum.org

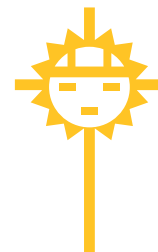
Or by phone at (707) 467-2836

Admission limited to 100 guests

Huge Thanks to our Lead and Participating Sponsors



Heartfelt Thanks to the Following Donors



Peggy Agnew & Jonathan Whipple
Antonio Andrade
Deanna Apfel
Sandra Applegate
& David Riemenschneider
Svetlana & George Artemoff
Kim Bancroft
Hal Bennett
Winston & Rebecca Bowen
George & Ruth Bradford Foundation
Armand Brint
Donna Callander
Fred Canillo & Lynn Webb
Judy & Richard Carter
John Chan Plumbing
Ginevra Chandler
Scott Claypool
Richard Corrow
Rich & Jane Cupples
Vergilia Paasche Dakin
Diane Daubeneck & Lee Parker
Neil & Andrea Davis
David Dippel
Deborah & Reid Edelman
Sandra Erickson & Danielle Elins
Katherine Gibbs Gengoux
Jerilyn Harris
Laurence & Patricia Hartley
Charlotte Healy
Carole & Ted Hester
Mary Jo Hildebrand
Carol Ann Hulsmann
Mark Humpal
Virginia Island
Clint & Jane Kelley
Charles Kennard
Susan Kraemer
Roy Krausen
Lucienne Lanson

Joanne Lanz
Mildred Lehrman
Steve & Jean Lincoln
Roberta Lyons
Linda MacDonald & Robert Comings
Kate & Mac Magruder
Wanda & Charles Mannon
Watters Martin
William & Judith Master
Harry & Mary Kay Matossian
Karen & Paul Maurer
Jill McCaughna
Noreen McDonald
Julie Merz
Leah Middleton
John & Karen Moon
Patty & Glenn Morgan
Alida Morzenti
David Nelson & Judith Fuente
Jill Nichol
Juan Orozco
June Oster
Ronald & Nancy Parker
Darlene Peck
Marie Pera
Sharon Peterson
Charlotte & David Rapport
Schuyler & Joan Richardson
Katarzyna Rolzinski
Norman & Karen Rosen
Lucy Santos
Danya & Jean-Paul Sarlande
David & Christy Scollin
Francine & Ron Selim
Theresa Sessoyeff
Mary Jane Sheppard & William Radtkey
Kathleen Spitzer
Kathleen Starback
Charlotte Tefft

Marge Thatcher
Cheryl Thompson
Kelly Thorn
Gail & Ronald Unzelman
David Urquhart
Phoenix van Hardenbroek
Jeannie Vierra
Renee Vinyard
Leona Walden
Sandra Warren
Cynthia Wilder
Ilse & Tom Winters
Dennis & Madelyn Yeo
Bard & Marilyn Zensen

New Life Members

Jerry Courtney
Candice Romanow
Ashley Zuckerman

New Supporter Members

Steve Luu
Karen & Paul Maurer
Mary Ann Villwock

Other New Guild Members

Stephanie Abba
Kathleen Barker
Tony Oliveira
Tiffany & Oliver Perry
Rebecca Rozewicz

A Diversity of Riches

Can you imagine running 482 miles in a little over eight days? In 1928, Joe Myers, Sr. of Pinoleville finished third in a 482-mile foot race from San Francisco to Grants Pass, Oregon. The race was designed to promote the new Redwood Highway and organizers used postcards like this to stir up enthusiasm and tell a great story.

This is one of the many object stories I discovered working on our latest exhibition, *The Art of Collecting: New Additions to the Grace Hudson Museum*. The exhibit showcases 16 Grace Hudson paintings recently donated to us by the Palm Springs Art Museum along with Pomo basketry and historic materials newly added to our collection, while also exploring ideas of what and why we collect.

I'll share just a few more of these object stories with you here. Three of my favorite pieces on display are a series of paintings Grace did of John Scott, an important Pomo spiritual leader from Pinoleville. The earliest image painted in 1912 and entitled *The Matu* shows him wearing the regalia of a traditional "Medicine Man" whose title in Northern Pomo was "Matu." Grace used bitumen, a tar-like substance

thinned with turpentine, to paint *Old John Scott* in 1928 and *Yesterday* in 1933. Seeing all three together gives a greater sense of John Scott as an individual.

A couple of steps away is *The Wi-Ly*, which we purchased at auction last year using the Museum's Acquisitions Fund, which is managed by our Endowment Fund Board. Grace painted only a few canvasses showing Pomoan women wearing dance regalia



Old John Scott, #632, by Grace Hudson.

and this is now the first example in our collection. Furthermore, we have the turkey feather topknot that Grace very likely used as a model for this portrait. Today, Pomo women continue to wear these beautiful pieces for important dances.

One of my other favorite feathered objects is a small basket completely covered in iridescent mallard feathers and golden oriole feathers. Mrs. Susie Billie of Hopland sold this piece in the 1940s–50s to Leon Taylor, a basket dealer in Fresno. He kept it for himself and his son Bryan later donated it to us. This is one of the many stories that Sherrie Smith-Ferri, our former Director and Curator, shared with me. Her knowledge was invaluable in putting together this exhibit.



Image of Joe Myers on a postcard promoting the 1928 Indian Redwood Marathon. Myers finished in 3rd place.

Karen Holmes, former Curator, also shared some notable pieces with me, including the final object I'll share with you now—a love letter. While separated from her husband and supporting three children, Grace Hudson's grandmother, Clarina Carpenter, began a correspondence with George Nichols, editor of the Wyndham County Democrat in Vermont. Through letters like this they fell in love and eventually married. During her marriage, George fell ill and Clarina took over his editorial duties. This gave her the platform to advocate for the issues she passionately cared about—women's rights, abolition, and temperance.

As you can tell, the objects we collect are varied. They not only reflect the lives and work of Grace Carpenter Hudson and her family, but also the evolving stories of Pomo peoples and culture.

— Alyssa Boge,
Curator of Education & Exhibits



Sun House Guild

GRACE HUDSON MUSEUM

431 South Main Street * Ukiah, California 95482

Address Service Requested

This issue of the *Sunletter* brought to you through the generosity of:



Submit your email address and name to info@gracehudsonmuseum.org to receive your *Sunletter* via email rather than as a mailed paper version.

Current Exhibition

Through Sunday, May 8, 2022

The Art of Collecting: New Additions to the Grace Hudson Museum



This might be the most unassuming painting of the 16 gifted to us by the Palm Springs Art Museum: *Todd Grove with Madrone Tree*. Undated, we suspect Grace Hudson painted it prior to 1918, when the City of Ukiah established the site as Todd Grove Park. Over the last 100 years it has become one of Ukiah's most used and beloved public spaces.

Our Next Exhibition

Saturday, May 21 to Sunday, August 14, 2022

Pulped Under Pressure: The Art of Handmade Paper

This exhibition showcases exquisitely hand-crafted artworks all made from paper. While aesthetically intriguing and beautiful, they also attempt to explore important social issues of the day such as environmental crisis and social disparity around the globe. The show's featured artists start simply with a foundation of pulp made from natural fibers. They then employ diverse mediums such as printmaking, letterpress, papercutting, and installation to fashion works of art.

Some of the artists also employ recycled disposable materials, including junk mail, egg cartons, old cotton t-shirts, ripped denim jeans, as well as old bedsheets, beetroot, heirloom plants, and luminescent wires. This show was organized and is being traveled by Reni Gower and Wylie Contemporary, Inc.

Information about upcoming Museum programs can always be found on the Museum's web site at gracehudsonmuseum.org.



Diver IV, by Marilyn Propp