

October 2008

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Denmark  
Finland  
Iceland  
Norway  
Sweden

**fall membership meeting**

Saturday, October 11, 2008, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

*On the Agenda* Exhibitions in 2009  
*Program* Art Aids Art - South African Art  
*Hosted by* Ellen Faris  
15 Vista Lane, Alamo, CA 94507  
*RSVP* 925-939-6156, designplus1@mac.com

*For the pot luck brunch, please bring a dish or a beverage to the meeting.*



John Casida with one of his Pre-Columbian artworks

**spring 2008 membership meeting**

**Meeting** - The meeting, hosted by Loren Rehbock in Berkeley, was attended by Marie-Louise Ullmark, Jason Engelund, Susan Peterson, Russell Herrman, Kati and John Casida, Margaretha Miglo, Norma Andersen Fox, Patricia Bengtson, Ellen Faris, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Diane Rusnak, Olivia Eielson, Kay Wehner, Loren Rehbock and Helene Sobol. We had three guests: Kari Brinck, Doris Villadsen Mendell and Barbara Stevens Strauss (see member profile below).

The meeting was opened by Helene Sobol; each member and guest introduced themselves and talked about their current projects and exhibitions. Marie-Louise Ullmark announced that, as a result of the new leadership at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, our planned exhibition was put on hold and that we would have to reapply. Kati Casida suggested we wait until the new museum is built. Some members presented ideas for other venues in the Bay Area and were encouraged to follow up.

*Thank you, Loren, for hosting an enjoyable and productive meeting!*

**Lecture** - After the meeting, we proceeded up the hill to the home of Kati and John Casida where John, a passionate collector, gave us a tour of his noted Pre-Columbian art collection.

*Thank you, John, for giving us an insight into your beautifully displayed museum quality collection!*

**welcoming new member  
barbara stevens strauss**

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*Offering Asana, Ceramic fired with iron oxide, 7" x 16" x 10"*

On display through October 17, 2008, at the Pacific Rim Sculptors Group Exhibition, Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in Carmel, CA

*Raku yaki fuses opposites. Fire and earth, water and smoke synergistically produce an object that contains all elements. Surrendering to its unpredictability results in choreographing the interplay between 'out there' and 'in here', and underscores the fact that they are not different.*

*The more I practice meditation, the more the work expresses a kind of 'spontaneous unreasoning' that is largely unconscious.*

*My esthetic is also informed by my Scandinavian background - a love of simplicity and spaciousness. Raku is about orchestrating possibilities.*

- Barbara Stevens Strauss



**Barbara Stevens Strauss**, whose great grandparents were Danish and Swedish, received her first formal studio training as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. While living in Naples, Florida, raku became a consuming interest. After moving to the Bay Area in 2003, she joined the Association of Clay and Glass Artists and the Pacific Rim Sculptors Group. Stevens Strauss has shown work in juried venues in the Bay Area and she cites Paul Soldner and Peter Voulkos as her "local heroes."

## artist news

**PAT BENGTON-JONES** *Encore*, Paradise Ridge Winery, Santa Rosa, through May 18, 2009 (see photo of sculptural installation below).

**KATI CASIDA** is visiting Rome in September and October observing patterns of people, architecture and sculpture in piazzas in preparation for an exhibition in the spring. She will present a lecture to the Berkeley Civic Arts Department which will be open to the public - date to be announced. The Memorial Chair that she created in memory of the missing persons after the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by Turkey was dedicated on July 20 (see photo).

**COLETTE CRUTCHER** Colette's book, *163: San Francisco's 16th Avenue Tiled Steps*, is available for sale at [ColetteCrutcher.com](http://ColetteCrutcher.com). It is a history of her community-based public art project created with ceramicist Aileen Barr.

**MARK ERICKSON** October 15 - November 30, Art Modern Gallery, Naples, FL; February 1 - March 5, 2009, Robert Green Fine Arts, Mill Valley, CA. His book, *Splashed Against a Black Wall - A Collection of Poems*, will be published in Vienna, Austria, this coming winter.

**ELLEN FARIS** will have a solo show at *Galleri Pikene ved Broen*, Heggedal, Norway, opening February 14, 2009.

**PAM FINGADO** opened *Fingado Art Gallery* on July 11 with the exhibition *For the Love of Art*, 7025 Stockton Ave, El Cerrito, CA.

**MAJ-BRITT HILSTROM** *Systems of Sharing: Below the Surface*, California Society of Printmakers Membership Exhibition during November and December at the Bay Model, Sausalito, CA.

**HELENE SOBOL** Photographs of San Francisco and the Bay Area are posted weekly on the Royal Norwegian Consulate General web site, [norway.org/sanfrancisco/](http://norway.org/sanfrancisco/) Click on *Picture of the Week*.

**ELIZABETH STOKKEBYE** is a graduate student, Ph.D. candidate, in the Scandinavian Department at UC Berkeley; her work will be shown in 2009 at a newly opened gallery, Geyser Arts Gallery, Geyserville, CA.

**MARIE-LOUISE ULLMARK** Fall group show at Galerie Gora in Montreal, Canada; solo exhibition at Sam the Butcher Contemporary Art, Ross, CA, in March-April 2009.

## memorial chair designed by Kati Casida



**Kati Casida** designed a Memorial Chair for the Missing Persons due to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. It was dedicated on July 20, 2008, and has been permanently installed at the Hellenic Heritage Institute in San Jose.

*The village chair, wrapped in layers of white doves printed with names of 1,532 Greek Cypriots and Greek soldiers... is a symbol of our hopes and prayers that many of them may still return to sit at their family tables... May we always remember and celebrate their lives.*

- Kati Casida

Dear Kati,

*I had the opportunity to witness with appreciation your efforts to promote the cause of the missing for the last 28 years... It gives me great pleasure to recognize your efforts, thank you for your contributions to the humanitarian issue of the missing and congratulate you for your artistic achievement.*

Nikolaos Theophanous  
Honorary Consul General of Cyprus



Kati Casida in her home in Berkeley

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Deadline for submissions of news items for the Spring issue  
**March 15, 2009**

*Prelude to Spirit in Motion*, Stone and Earth installation by Pat Bengtson-Jones, Paradise Ridge Winery, Santa Rosa, CA



Paradise Ridge Winery is home to Marijke's Grove, a sculpture exhibit nestled in a four-acre grove of ancient gnarled oaks. Within the wooden glens are "galleries" connected by simple footpaths. Sculptures are displayed among mossy rocks and small grassy clearings in this natural outdoor gallery. Marijke's Grove supports the arts by creating an annually changing exhibit space where art, ideas and nature converge.

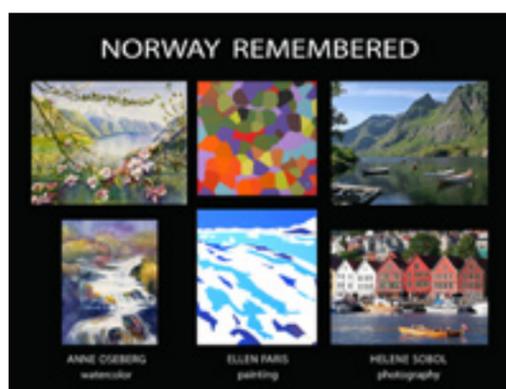
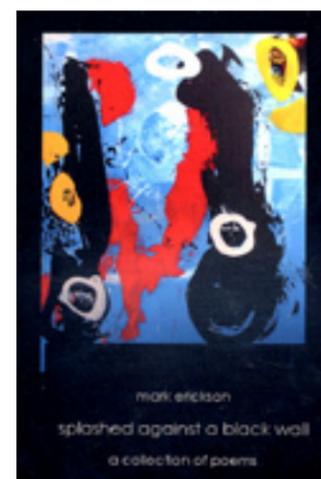


## news... events and exhibitions

*Clockwise from left*

Pat Bengtson-Jones at The Atrium, San Francisco  
John Casida showing his Pre-Columbian art collection to Russell Herrman

*Splashed Against a Black Wall - A Collection of Poems*, by Mark Erickson, published in Vienna, Austria, 2009



## Three artists at the Norway Day Festival: *Norway Remembered*

May 3 and 4, Fort Mason, San Francisco

Ellen Faris, Anne-Inger Oseberg and Helene Sobol (photos left to right)



*All of us at Norway Day Inc. thank you for being a part of our best Norway Day Festival ever! Your group's photographs and paintings added a wonderful dimension to the festival and your participation made a difference.*

- Katie Allen

nordic 5 arts NEWSBRIEFS are published in April and October. Edited and designed by Helene Sobol.

The publication supports and promotes artists with Nordic heritage in the San Francisco Bay Area. Subscription \$10; membership dues \$20.  
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