

November 2009

www.nordic5arts.com

Denmark

Finland

Iceland

Norway

Sweden

- Minutes from the Spring and Fall Meetings 2009
- Welcoming New Member - Kristin Lindseth Rivera
- Nordic 5 Arts - Started on a dare... by Kati Casida
- "Going North" - Works by 23 Member Artists
- Next Exhibition - Let's blog!

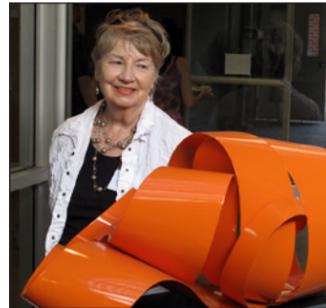
update minutes, spring 2009 meeting

We met at the home of Maj-Britt Mobrand. Present were Helene Sobol, Marc Ellen Hamel, Russell Herrman, Debra Jewell, Norma Fox, Maj-Britt Mobrand., Lotte Dyhrberg, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Diane Rusnak, Ellen Faris, Pam Fingado, Loren Rehbock, Pat Bengtson, Kati Casida, Olivia Eielson, Colette Crutcher, and Barbara Stevens Strauss. Betty Pillsbury arrived a few minutes before the end. Helene opened the meeting and welcomed everybody, including Marc Ellen Hamel, a new member, and Kirsti Bellows, a guest of Diane Rusnak who may be interested in becoming a member. The artists introduced themselves.

EXHIBITIONS

Past Shows: *Nordic Moods* at the Norwegian Seamen's Church, San Francisco. Curated by Helene Sobol and Colette Crutcher, the show included 9 artists. It was officially opened by Consul General of Norway Sten Arne Rosnes and Colette reported that the Opening Reception was very well attended. As a result of PR by the Seamen's Church, Helene reported that she received an email from the Scandinavian Cultural Center at the Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, where they expressed an interest in a future exhibition by our group. *Nordic Contemporary Arts* at the Fingado Art Gallery, included 12 artists and Pam reported that it was well visited and liked, but there were few sales which she attributed to the economy. **Upcoming show:** *Going North*, Contra Costa College, Aug. 14 – Oct. 30. Curator Pat Bengtson and Co-curator Maj-Britt Hilstrom worked with juror Claudia Chapline who selected 23 artists. The exhibition catalog designed by Helene was passed around for proofing. We will have catalogs for sale at the opening reception. Individual orders will also be available at www.nordic5arts.com. The following members offered to volunteer with the show: Wall prep, Aug 11: Loren; Receiving, Aug 12, 11AM-2PM: Pat and Maj-Britt. If you can't make it, please arrange for someone else to deliver your work. Installation, Aug 13: Loren, Colette, Marc Ellen. Reception, Aug 27, 5-8: Each exhibiting artist is requested to bring a bottle of white wine and a snack, and come a little early to help set up. John Casida will serve the wine. Two brief talks on Scandinavian writers will be given in the back room by Elizabeth Stokkebye and Colette Crutcher as part of the reception. Pat will get info about parking. This and directions will be emailed to membership. Announcement card: Helene will create the announcement with the same work by Maj-Britt Mobrand as on the book cover. 1000 will be printed. She will also prepare an email announcement.

Continued on next page



nordic 5 arts is born... on a dare!

by Kati Casida
founder, nordic 5 arts

Nordic 5 Arts did not enter the art scene of the San Francisco Bay Area quietly. It was born out of exasperation and determination to fulfill a need that had not been met. That need was to support, promote and highlight the talents of professional Nordic artists in our community and to broaden their participation in the cultural life of the community. I had seen an exhibition of "Scandinavian Artists" in San Francisco which featured the work of many more non-Scandinavians than artists of Scandinavian heritage. I exclaimed to the then present Consul General of Norway, Dag Mork Ulnes, "We can do much better. We can bring together artists representing all five Nordic countries. United we have strength and greater visibility to project our talents on the community stage. The criteria will be excellence in the artist's works. The Nordic consulates publicize artists from their own countries and that is their job, but it creates a void for Nordic artists established here or newly arrived to discover avenues for exhibition of their works." I accepted the questions that followed from Consul General Ulnes to be both encouraging and a challenge. Possessing what Norwegians refer to as "Bone In My Nose" (stubborn), I accepted the challenge. Thus, Nordic 5 Arts was born. In April 1994, we presented our first exhibition, "NORDIC ACCENT," at the San Francisco Design Center. It was a group show with indoor/outdoor sculptures by the charter members who were also part of Pacific Rim Sculpture Group. It was very well received and reviewed.

LET'S BLOG!

Voice your opinions regarding a title of our next show at the Craft & Cultural Arts Gallery, State of California Office Building, Oakland, September 12 – October 28, 2011.

<http://nordic5arts.blogspot.com/2009/12/2011-show-at-craft-cultural-art.html>

kristin lindseth rivera

Of Swedish and Norwegian heritage, Kristin Lindseth Rivera is a sculptor and printmaker who specializes in figurative work. She studied at the University of Oregon, the Sorbonne, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris, and received her MA in 1985 from San Jose State University. She resides in Los Gatos and teaches drawing, sculpture and digital art at Mission College in Santa Clara.

Kristin states "As a sculptor and printmaker, I focus on the human figure. The bronze sculptures are about emotions or states of being, not about individuals. It is the experience of being human that I try to deal with, the experience of being both strong and fragile, both connected to, and isolated from others, both past and present. I also make intaglio prints. The prints do not always include the figure in a literal way, but the figurative element is there... there is an implied presence or absence of humanity... the printmaking allows for the exploration of ideas that are difficult to express in three dimensions."

Web site: www.KristinLindseth.net

Striding Figure, Bronze

welcoming new member





minutes, spring 2009 meeting - Continued

COMMITTEES Nominating Committee: Pam said that she, Jason and Elizabeth reached out to the members, but that they had no success finding a new Coordinator. She stated that she herself may be available to take over as Coordinator next year.

Secretary: Colette is the new Secretary and started taking minutes at the meeting. **Newsbrief:** Lotte will write features for the newsletter. Other input welcomed. It was decided to continue sending the newsletter out in paper form to those who prefer that. Let Helene know if you would rather receive it online. The Newsbriefs are posted on the Nordic 5 Arts web site. **Membership Committee:** Norma and Pat will continue; Diane will replace Helene. **Exhibitions Committee:** Helene said that Jason Engelund, who was not present, had indicated an interest in this committee. Ellen Faris will join him and suggestions are welcomed from the membership. (After the meeting, Helene confirmed with Jason that he is willing to serve and Pat will also join them on this committee.) Diane Rusnak offered to work on a potential show at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Tacoma, WA. Marc Ellen goes frequently to Seattle and will contact the Nordic Heritage Museum there. **Web site:** \$50 for new postings and \$25 to update your page with new images and info. Email new postings and updates to Helene, hfs@helenesobol.com. Check made out to Nordic 5 Arts. **Treasurer:** Maj-Britt Mobrand reported that we have \$1,083.79 in the account. We will order Going North catalogs to have for sale at the opening reception and to use for PR purposes, including applications to future exhibition venues. New committees to be filled in the future: Program Committee to plan activities for future meetings and PR Committee. Please contact Helene if you are interested in these committees. After the pot luck brunch, when the members had a chance to visit with each other, each artist shared their latest work and projects. The meeting ended with a visit to Maj-Britt Mobrand's weaving studio.

Respectfully submitted, Colette Crutcher

minutes, fall 2009 meeting

The meeting was held at Marc Ellen Hamel's home in San Francisco. Present were: Helene Sobol, Marie-Louise Ullmark, Marc Ellen Hamel, Dorothy McCall, Maj-Britt Mobrand, Pat Bengtson, Barbara Stevens Strauss, Colette Crutcher, Jason Engelund, Debra Jewell, Diane Rusnak, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Kati Casida and guests Nancy Hayes, Linda Jones and John Casida.

Brief update on everyone's activities of late:

Marie-Louise Ullmark: Recent exhibition in Sweden, very successful. Moving to Stockholm soon. **Dorothy McCall:** Travel to Boise and Seattle making contacts with art venues. Art history work. **Marc Ellen Hamel:** Recent Open Studio: President of Shipyard Trust for the Arts, organized auction. **Maj-Britt Mobrand:** Box art show, Pro Arts. **Pat Bengtson:** Recent show at Triton museum; donated one sculpture to their permanent collection. **Barbara Stevens Strauss:** Working on raku. **Colette Crutcher:** Recent series of paper mache animal sculptures at Davies Hall, to be auctioned off by Mission Cultural Center in December. **Jason Engelund:** Expectant father, planning his first trip to

Denmark, 2 shows coming up. **Diane Rusnak:** Magpie 7 Arts group show at Windows Gallery, Berkeley, and planning illustrations for a poetry book. **Debra Jewell:** Monotypes, landscapes, trip to Japan in November. **Maj-Britt Hilstrom:** Show at Fingado Gallery (Ellen Faris and Helena Tiainen will also be in the show.) Self-published a book on her Deep Sea Series. **Helene Sobol:** Just published a book, "Ladies of Hyde Street." Recent expedition to Svalbard, Norway, to photograph arctic wildlife and landscape.

EXHIBITIONS

Completed Exhibition: "Going North" at Contra Costa College: Well received. Many thanks to Pat Bengtson and Maj-Britt Hilstrom for their hard work, and all those who helped with the installation, dismantling, catalog, etc. Pat announced that, sadly, CCC is cutting some art classes due to funding shortage.

Next show: September 12 – October 28, 2011: Craft & Cultural Arts Gallery, State of California Office Building, 1515 Clay Street – Atrium, Oakland. Jason Engelund, who proposed this venue, announced that he had secured the show dates in the fall of 2011. He will organize the exhibition with help from Dorothy McCall and other members. A juror needs to be found. Signage: Can it be donated? Ask Diane Love. Will there be a catalog? All in favor, but Helene will need assistance if she is to do it. Colette suggested we think about a unifying theme to tie our work together. She gave the title "Water" as an example. Discussion followed. Is Nordic identity enough of a theme? Kati Casida said the group was formed to promote artistic excellence, and that not all the art we show needs to reference Nordic-ness. With so much lead time, can we create pieces specifically in response to a theme? Maj-Britt Hilstrom suggested films of Ingmar Bergman as a theme and this generated much interest. Marc Ellen Hamel suggested choosing lines from a Swedish poet (Tomas Tranströmer). Suggestions for show titles were written down and it was agreed to put off a vote until the next meeting in the spring. In the meantime, we can be mulling over ideas, and perhaps update each other by email on what we are thinking. (New Blog! See front page)

Proposed show titles: From the North – Contemporary Art of Nordic Heritage (working title proposed to Craft & Cultural Arts Gallery); Water; Films of Ingmar Bergman; Planet in Crisis; Line of Poetry (Tomas Tranströmer); Ancestral Memories; Science and Spirituality; When We Were Small: A Child's Eye View; Youth and Age.

Other Show Venues: Possible show in Tacoma, WA, at Pacific Lutheran University. Nancy Hayes volunteered to follow up. The Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle is in transition at present so nothing can be organized there for a while.

Treasurer's Report: Account moved to Mechanics Bank, \$450, plus \$33.75 in old Bank of America account. Membership renewal forms were passed out for 2010. Dues \$20. **Leadership:** Pam Fingado and Maj-Britt Mobrand are considering sharing Helene's responsibilities as coordinator starting in the spring.

Web Site: New posting \$50 and update photos for a \$25 fee. Contact Helene for information.

Next Meeting: Diane Rusnak's home in San Pablo. Lecture by Dorothy McCall.

The meeting was followed by a delicious pot luck and Helene's slide show "Svalbard, Norway – Expedition to the Arctic."

Respectfully submitted, Colette Crutcher

Selected Works from the "GOING NORTH" Exhibition at Contra Costa College, Fall 2009
Juror: Claudia Chaplin, Gallery Owner, Writer - **Curator:** Pat Bengtson-Jones - **Co-Curator:** Maj-Britt Hilstrom
 Exhibition catalog available at www.Nordic5Arts.com
Artworks - Clockwise from Top Left
 Diane Rusnak, Jason Engelund, Loren Rehbeck, Susan Peterson, Elizabeth Stokkebye, Maj-Britt Mobrand, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Colette Crutcher, Pat Bengtson-Jones, Helena Tiainen, Norma Andersen Fox, Ellen Faris, Kati Casida, Dorothy Nissen, Helene Sobol, Russell Herrman, Barbara Stevens-Strauss, Debra Jewell, Chuck Clanton, Mark Erickson, Marc Ellen Hamel, Pat Fingado, Olivia Eielson

