

museum musings

Inside this issue:

- ❖ ¿Qué Pasa?
- ❖ Memberships and Memoria
- ❖ Visioning Beauty: An Ella K. Mewhinney Retrospective
- ❖ Mark Your Calendar
- ❖ 2008 Summer Camp
- ❖ Museology 101

On exhibition next summer.....

The Inspired Line: Selected Prints of Albrecht Dürer and Rembrandt van Rijn

Although Albrecht Dürer (German, 1471-1528) and Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn (Dutch, 1601-1669) created their artwork a century apart, connections between their prints are significant, intriguing, and often remarkable. *The Inspired Line* consists of 40 woodcuts and engravings, and provides an opportunity to view the religious works of these great masters side by side and consider the historical contexts, religious backgrounds, and aesthetic approaches of each.

At a young age, Dürer was trained as a metalworker by his father in Nuremberg, Germany. Later, Dürer applied the same exacting methods to his woodcuts and engravings. His strong admiration for Leonardo da Vinci and the Italian Renaissance led him to become the father of the Northern European Renaissance. Though Dürer was Catholic, he was encouraged by an enthusiastic patron to befriend chief figures of the Protestant Reformation, an act that involved him in religious controversy until his death.

Rembrandt, who began his career as a scholar, imbued his portraits with psychological depth and masterly light and shadow. At the height of his career, he was the most successful artist of the Baroque era in Holland, which was a time of great prosperity. A lifelong member of the Dutch Reformed Church in a predominately Protestant country, Rembrandt received no church commissions; rather, his patronage came from the thriving middle class. He was a highly accomplished etcher who created unique, profound interpretations of biblical stories.

Both artists rendered multiple scenes of Jesus's life and other New Testament stories, and prints of these biblical themes are especially strong in this collection. Viewed together, the works illustrate the differences in aesthetic movements and religious influences of their times, yet by sharing a subject matter, they are ideal counterpoint images.

The Inspired Line is supported by grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts. It is made available by ExhibitsUSA, a division of Mid-America Arts Alliance, and will be on view June 16 – August 11, 2009.

It's not too late! Plan your visit to see our outstanding exhibition, *Edward S. Curtis: Plains Indians*, now through October 18, 2008.



Left: Chief, from *Tejas Winds*, and a museum summer camper blow a didgeridoo during a program on indigenous music for Native American Day. The camp attracted 25 youths who enjoyed learning about the Chisholm Trail, pioneers, archeology and Native Americans.

Right: the whole crew, including members of *Four Winds Intertribal Society, Inc.*, who contributed \$500 for camp supplies and activities.

Summer Camp 2008!



October is Texas Archeology Month

Join us for any or all of the following fun and informative events in October:

Every Saturday, noon until 5 p.m. Dig in our pits! We will conduct mock digs every Saturday in our two simulated sites, an 1880s farmhouse and a 2,000 B.C. campsite. All tools will be provided. Free.

October 11th, 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Living history interpreter Curtis Carter makes an encore appearance at the museum. His tipi and other trappings depict an 1860s Cheyenne household. Free.

October 16th - 7:00 p.m. Dr. Andy Hemmings will give an update on recent findings at the Gault site, an important Paleoindian excavation in Central Texas. Dr. Hemmings is an analyst at the site. Free.

Mark Your Calendar

Christmas at Green Oaks Farm will be held Saturday, December 6, 2008. This lovely holiday affair is a major fundraiser for the museum.

Visioning Beauty:

An Ella K. Mewhinney Retrospective

Our Ella K. Mewhinney retrospective opens November 1, 2008, and will remain on view through January 31, 2009. The exhibition will feature more than forty paintings and watercolors as well as a selection of Ella's hand painted china and lamps. Essayist for the exhibition will be Michael Grauer, Curator of Art at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon.

MUSEOLOGY 101

How do museum professionals view the collections that are in their care?

In *Collection Conundrums: Solving Collections Management Mysteries*, authors Rebecca A. Buck and Jean Gilmore give us the answer:

"The permanent collections of a museum form the core of the institution. They rise from the mission, they inform the programs and they shape the direction of the institution. . . . The well-managed museum provides sophisticated environmental systems, good security, safe exhibition techniques and storage systems that minimize threat to the physical safety of the collection. It takes care to pack, crate and ship collection objects in the best possible way to avoid damage. Its documentation procedures are complex, thorough and geared to tracking the physical integrity and presenting the correct intellectual attributes of each object. . . . Objects in museum collections are held for the benefit of the public. . . . The responsibility for care of the collections is guided by law and by the higher professional and ethical standards set by professional organizations. The American Association of Museums, as the organization that accredits American museum, works constantly to upgrade standards and promote excellence.

"When an object enters a museum's permanent collection, its status changes. There is no more drinking from the cup, no more playing with the doll, no more never-ending display for the watercolor. Housing and environmental issues alien to the object's origin and initial use loom large, and a pedestal awaits for future exhibition. The object, by virtue of the fact that it has been 'accessioned,' is accorded higher value than its counterparts on the outside. Usually there is no question that the accessioned object deserves this higher esteem."

Please join us! Take part in preserving the rich history of the Bell County region by joining the Friends of the Museum Association. Your membership allows us to continue award-winning programming through exhibits and educational activities that enhance our county-wide community. Benefits of membership include discounts in the museum bookstore, invitations to special events, and the satisfaction of knowing that YOU are an important part of the preservation of Bell County and Central Texas history. *Together, we make our community great!*

Yes! I want to support the Bell County Museum by becoming a member of the Friends of the Museum Association.

- | | |
|--|---|
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by
Carolyn Monteith Clarke & family
Edgar Wilson Monteith & family

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Works of art are the property of mankind and ownership carries with it the obligation to preserve them. He who neglects this duty and directly or indirectly contributes to their damage or ruin invites the reproach of barbarism and will be punished with the contempt of all educated people, now and in future ages.

-Goethe, 1799

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¿Qué Pasa?

Now through October 18th - *Edward S. Curtis: Plains Indians*

Texas Archeology Month! Join us for....

October 11, 2008 - Plains Indian interpretation by historian Curtis Carter, 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

October 16th, 7:00 p.m. - Update on the Gault site by Dr. Andy Hemmings.

Archeology pits are open every Saturday in October!

November 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009 - *Visioning Beauty: An Ella K. Mewhinney Retrospective*

December 6, 2008 - *Christmas at Green Oaks Farm*

March 14, 2009 - Big Bell County Garage Sale