

THE ARTS & CRAFTS MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLORADO ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

www.coloarts-crafts.org

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SPRING 2014

The Colorado Arts and Crafts Society Presents

A GATHERING OF THE



SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014

THE BOETTCHER MANSION

ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GOLDEN, COLORADO

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

JOIN US FOR A GATHERING OF THE GUILDS

THE COLORADO ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY ARTISANS' GUILD FORUM:

A PRESENTATION OF THE BEST IN REGIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

Have you ever wondered how to hammer copper, spin wool, turn wood or make a gouache print? Our popular "Gathering of the Guilds"- celebrating local artisans and their handcrafted works - is just around the corner. To be held Sunday, April 27th, from 9 AM - 4 PM at the historic Boettcher Mansion atop Lookout Mountain in Golden (www.jeffco.us/boettcher), here's who we've rounded up to date:

- A&E Fine Woodworking
- Aurora Artists Guild
- Beth Bradford Studio
- Colorado Artists Guild
- Colorado Calligraphers' Guild
- Colorado Episcopal Vestment Guild
- Colorado Metalsmithing Association
- Colorado Woodworkers Guild
- Friends of Dard Hunter
- Golden Moon Distillery
- Handweavers' Guild of Boulder
- Julie Fletcher, Artist
- Phoenix Window Restoration
- Red Rocks School of Fine Woodworking
- RM Design & Construction
- Rocky Mountain Blacksmithing/
Professional Knifemakers Association
- Rocky Mountain Chapter, Guild of Book Workers
- Rocky Mountain Hat Guild

- Rocky Mountain Marquetry Guild
- Rocky Mountain Metalsmiths
- Rocky Mountain Weavers' Guild
- 2R Fine Arts
- Seedlings
- The Book Arts League
- The Bungalow Craft by Julie Leidel

Whether you choose to "learn the trade" from a favorite artisan - or just listen and observe from afar - here's your opportunity to meet and learn from a variety of passionate and talented folks. There's bound to be something for everyone, so bring your family and friends!

A variety of information, presentations, and demonstrations will be offered throughout the day, and many one-of-a-kind works will be available for sale (remember, Mother's Day is exactly two weeks after this event, so be sure to shop the wares)! Refreshments will be available on site for purchase.

General admission is \$5 per person (CACS and participating guild members can participate free of charge). A full schedule will be posted on our website (www.coloarts-crafts.org) by mid-April. For more information, please call Cynthia at (720) 497-7632.

Grove Park Inn in Transition

Article & Photos By Dennis Barrett



The National Arts & Crafts Conference, on the third weekend in February, is billed as the largest gathering of Arts & Crafts enthusiasts anywhere. But it's usually called the GPI conference, or the Grove Park Inn conference, because since its inception 27 years ago, it has been held at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC, "where the Arts & Crafts Movement never stopped."

CACS is usually represented at GPI. This year, Julie Leidel was commissioned to make the poster for next year's conference (which was given to each of the thousand-plus registrants at this year's conference), and Julie also had



New Great Hall Wall Sconces

a booth and sold her artwork in the Contemporary Craftsfirms section. Robert Rust led two of the small group discussions, and I was the innocent bystander.

We left the Grove Park Inn last year with some misgivings. We had heard that the great hotel had been sold to new management, a few changes had already been made in the Great Hall, and workmen were descending on the place even as we checked out.

So we approached this year not knowing quite what to expect. The news is decidedly mixed.

In the Great Hall, both fireplaces blaze again, with 20 rocking chairs pulled up to each, where last year the south fireplace was out of commission. The massive columns, once encased in local rocks, have been wrapped instead in quarter-sawn red oak. There are 24 new generously-large sconces adding to the lighting, each with Dard Hunter rose motif and stylized landscape done by Old California Lantern Co. There is a large old Roycroft sideboard, holding the urns of chilled water with fruit slices. One of the huge 1913 Roycroft grandfather clocks has been moved back to its original location just inside the Great Hall. Throughout the public rooms there are new Arts & Crafts-inspired carpets; some of them must be 50 feet long. (The carpets generally found favor, though some aficionados noted that the colors were a little subdued; a closer adherence to



One of Many New Carpet Designs

an Arts & Crafts palette would have made the colors pop out to better effect). So far, so good.

But the glory of the Great Hall was the abundance of Arts & Crafts chairs and settles – solid, old, comfortable, and beautiful to our eyes. Befitting a Hall, capital H, that rises two stories high, built of huge hunks of rough rock, with

walk-in fireplaces at either end and andirons sixteen hands high. Most of that Arts & Crafts furniture has now been replaced by a hodge-podge of seats perhaps Mid-Century Modern(ish)? – that seem to fit no more with each other than with the few Arts & Crafts relics left in the Hall. This was the great disappointment for the Arts & Crafts crowd, and it was a topic of spirited conversation.



Wicker & Chrome Barstools



Mod high-back chairs and loveseats block the view of the fireplaces from most vantage points in the Great Hall.



New Front Desk with a Cut-log Motif



Log Lamps with White Shades

The original Inn was built on a steep hill, with the living quarters extending five stories upward. When the Vanderbilt and Sammons wings were added in the 1980s they extended at right angles from the old Inn, and down the hill. So you walk from the Great Hall of the old Inn (where the elevators go only upward), to the 10th floor of either wing (from which the elevators go only downward) It can be confusing at first. The long corridors on the top level of either wing command sweeping views of the 18-hole GPI golf course in the foreground and the city of Asheville in the distance. For many years there were Stickley rocking chairs in a long line by the panoramic windows in the Sammons wing, outside the ballroom where plenary seminars are held. Now there's a long line of new cabaret tables, with high stools. On the Vanderbilt side (surprisingly)



Arts & Crafts Tables Paired with White Upholstered Chairs

there is still vintage furniture at the windows, outside the shoppes; you can either bring your lunch, or buy it in the Marketplace, and then eat in comfort with a great view. In other public spaces the designer, if there was one, seems determined to provide constant reminders of who is boss: paired with a vintage table there is an egregiously modern chair; next to them, an old but sturdy Roycroft chair with a new table flaunting its chrome. In the high-priced "casual" dining room now styled 'The Edison Grille' there is an outsize television, and a chandelier fashioned from several antlers, *painted white*. Paradoxes abound in today's Grove Park Inn. You have to wonder what these guys might wreak if they got the commission to re-do Downton Abbey.

We heard the back story for the changes at GPI when Bruce Johnson led off the first seminar session. Johnson is the organizer and leader of the Conference, so effective at keeping the tradition alive that the stalwarts keep coming back year after year. Bruce's tale was reminiscent of the Ring Cycle, with Dallas standing in for the Rhine.

The Grove Park Inn was envisioned and financed by E.W. Grove, then built and first managed by his son-in-law Fred Seely, in 1913. It was built of local stone and wood, in rustic Arts & Crafts style, and outfitted with furniture, lighting, crockery, copperwork, etc. by the Roycroft shops.

In 1955 it was taken over by Charles Sammons, a Dallas bil-
4.



White-antler-ridden Chandelier

lionaire, described as a self-made man and a "consummate entrepreneur." Sammons made choices more entrepreneurial than artistic, but did no permanent damage to the property. After his death in 1988, his wife, Elaine Dewey Sammons, became Chairman (yes, *-man*) of the Board of Sammons Enterprises, and paid special attention to Grove Park Inn. Mrs. Sammons built the Spa, and undertook various expansions and restorations, but she was so protective of the Arts and Crafts legacy, Bruce Johnson reported, that she would seek him out to consult on artistic decisions.



The Spa is Ranked in the Top 20 Resort Spas in the U.S.

Alas, Mrs Sammons died in 2009. In 2011 the GPI was sold to KSL Resorts, which, quite oblivious to heritage, was out to turn a quick buck. Or 100 million bucks, actually, which they did when they resold the property 18 months later. It turns out that the questionable remodeling and decorating decisions are all attributed to KSL, the villains of the piece. KSL sold to the Omni Hotel Resorts chain, so that the venerable hotel is now the *Omni Grove Park Inn*. As to what we may find next year at the 28th GPI Conference, there is guarded optimism. There is some hope that the Omni Hotel Resorts group has an interest in the historic legacy and may want to restore the property to its place as a shrine of the Arts & Crafts Movement. Time will tell. And, oh yes, the Omni group belongs to...another Dallas billionaire. 🍷

G.P.I. through the eyes of a newcomer

By Julie Leidel

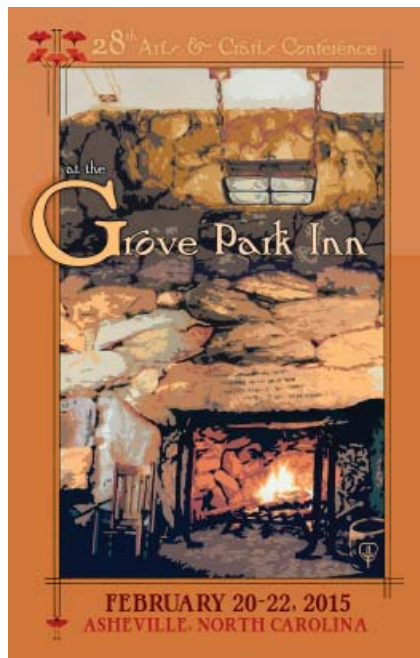
Packing up the Xterra, I realized just how excited I really was to be heading out on the first of hopefully many road trips East to Asheville, NC. The 27th Annual Arts & Crafts Conference at The Grove Park Inn was a mere three days away and I was ready to hit the road.

Much of my artwork focused on Colorado destinations, and when Bruce Johnson contacted me asking if I'd like to be commissioned to do the 28th GPI poster for the 2015 conference, I knew I needed to up my game and spend some quality time creating a new line of artwork engaging a wider, national Arts & Crafts audience. I call it my Motto Series. I created 15 new acrylic paintings that feature many important quotations of the era. William Morris, John Ruskin, and Frank Lloyd Wright filled my head and came to life as I paired their words with new textures and motifs of the Arts & Crafts Movement. As an artist, I'm always trying to come up with ways to reinvent myself, stay true to my inspirations, and push the envelope. There's nothing like a deadline to get those creative juices flowing.

Original artwork, giclee prints, and display walls filled my SUV with just enough room for a little luggage. I've never driven 1,500 miles alone before, and as a mom of two adorable but loud children, I have to say the drive was quite relaxing. As I drove up the winding road to the hotel and caught the first glimpse of the rooftop, I knew I was embarking on a milestone in my career - another beginning.

Luckily I had been to G.P.I a few years earlier for the conference so I understood the layout and surroundings some. This came in handy, but having good friends that have been doing this show for 17 years was paramount to a successful set-up. Laura Wilder and her husband Bob Thompson gave me many valuable tips and I'm forever in their debt. I was still pinching myself that I was actually exhibiting among so many of my heroes. The contemporary artisans are a family unit, and they welcomed me in with open arms. I was humbled to be a part of this spectacular group.

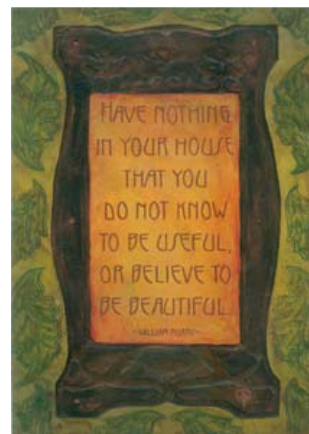
Showtime came, and the crowd was great. I was honored by people coming and asking me to sign their poster. That was indeed a fun moment and very out of the ordinary. There were so many knowledgeable collectors and enthusiasts with interesting and thoughtful comments and compliments. Before the show, I wasn't sure how well a new artist would be received. Was there room for new interpretations of the movement? Would people enjoy



something different? Truth be told, it was better than I could have imagined. The hall was abuzz with old and new friends alike and a shared vision of beauty. I was home.

I was asked on more than one occasion what I thought of the conference, as a newcomer. Twenty-seven years of doing anything over and over would take its toll presumably, but not from where I stood. Everyone I encountered was full of passion for the conference. It centers on the antiques, seminars, workshops and handcraft, but the life blood of this conference lies in the people. The combined knowledge that filled the inn that weekend was astounding. The energy of seeing a family reunion atmosphere filled with friends and objects old and new was truly exhilarating.

It went by too quickly, but I guess that's what next year is for. I look forward to seeing my kindred spirits again next February and I hope you'll come and experience it with me. ☺



Signed posters, new original artwork and giclee prints will be available at the Gathering of the Guilds and on my website: thebungalowcraft.com



MARTIN FAITH & STAINED GLASS: A SUMMARY OF OUR WINTER SYMPOSIUM

On January 24th, the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society held its 17th Annual Winter Symposium by the hearth in the Fireside Room at the Boettcher Mansion. After drinks, appetizers, an excellent 'Scottish-inspired' meal served by The Pines at Genesee, and the briefest of business meetings, we settled down to enjoy a well illustrated talk by Martin Faith on stained and leaded glass. We all enjoyed his rich brogue and full Highland regalia.

KIRKLAND MUSEUM MOVING TO A NEW DENVER LOCATION

For those of us that love and frequent Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, we've known for some time that the collection has outgrown the grounds. With over 15,000 objects of desire, Kirkland museum will sprout new roots near the corner of West 12th Ave. and Bannock Street in Denver's Museum District near the Denver Art Museum, Clyfford Still Museum, Byers-Evans House, and History Colorado Center, completing the Golden Triangle.

Olson Kundig Architects will be designing the new 19,000 square foot building. It will be contemporary, yet not overly modern. Private money from The Chambers Family Fund is paying for the move. Ground should break in 2015 with a completion date late 2016.

Hugh Grant, the museum's founder and director, also plans to move Vance Kirkland's entire studio brick by brick (down Broadway since it won't fit under the bridge by the museum) to the new location where it will be on exhibit. Moving this historic studio will hopefully ensure its future preservation for generations to come.



Martin was trained in Glasgow, but moved to Denver three decades ago to found Scottish Stained Glass, which is still run from its Centennial office but has several branches elsewhere in the U.S. Martin spoke briefly about techniques in art glass through the ages, and brought us up to date with a glimpse of the installations he and his artisans are currently engaged in (for more information on their work, visit scottishstainedglass.com).

Stained glass dates from about 675 A.D. and had become widespread by the 9th century. It flourished in the 14th century, with the erection of the great cathedrals, when superior French glass artisans were imported to England to install the windows. But in the 1500s, as Henry VIII abolished Catholicism in Great Britain, he also destroyed much of the best stained glass in his campaign against "graven images."

The 1800s saw the use of stained glass in even small churches, on both sides of the Atlantic, and the utilitarian employment of stained glass for privacy (as in the ground floor windows of tenements). All this activity paved the way for individual artists - such as Dard Hunter, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Frank Lloyd Wright and Marc Chagall - to express themselves in art glass during the Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods.

After a spirited question session we adjourned. Thank you Martin, for an enlightened evening.



WELCOME LEXI TO THE CACS BOARD



Lexi Erickson is the newest member of the CACS Board and currently serves as the secretary. She had been a participant in the Gathering of the Guilds since the first show. Academically trained as an art historian and archaeologist, after "retirement" as a college instructor, she turned to another interest, and for the last 10 years has taught Jewelry Design and Fabrication at several east coast colleges and now is the Contributing Editor to Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist magazine and is the President of one of the largest online jewelry schools. Lexi lives in Highlands Ranch with her husband and three very spoiled kitties.



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UPCOMING AREA EVENTS



Doors Open Denver

April 12 & 13, 2014 - 9am to 5pm

The Denver Architectural Foundation hosts their annual celebration of Denver's built environment and design. This free, two-day event invites residents and visitors to tour the spectacular, the new, and the historic buildings they see everyday but may never have entered. There will be some 80 to 90 buildings open to the public from 9am to 5pm. More information at doorspendenver.com

5th Annual Gathering of the Guilds

Sunday, April 27, 2014 - 9am-4pm

Join us on Lookout Mountain for our annual Gathering of the Guilds Show and Sale. Guilds and artisans from all over Colorado come together one day a year at this event to encourage new memberships, demonstrate their talents, and sell their wares.

16th Annual Wash Park Home Tour

Saturday, May 10, 2014 - 10am to 4pm

This annual event showcases distinctive homes in many different styles located on the east side of Washington Park in Denver. While some homes highlight the history of this unique neighborhood, others fuse the old and new. Tickets are \$20 online or \$25 on the day of the event at any home on the tour or at Steele Elementary. Call 720-424-3720 with questions or visit washparkhometour.org

The Arts & Crafts Messenger, the newsletter of the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, is published quarterly for the society's members as part of their membership contribution. Send comments to julie.leidel@gmail.com. All articles are ©2014 the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, with rights reverting to the authors after publication.

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS OF THE COLORADO ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY:

PRESIDENT :

Mark Davidson 303.355.8582

VICE PRESIDENT / EDUCATION CHAIR :

Cynthia Shaw 720.497.7632

SECRETARY :

Lexi Erickson 303.882-7775

TREASURER:

Beth Bradford 303.778.0580

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Julie Fletcher 303.923-3515

TOUR COORDINATOR:

Robert Rust 303.733.0603
www.2rfinearts.com

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN :

Julie Leidel 303.263.8577
www.thebungalowcraft.com

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE :

Dennis Barrett 303.744-8682

All correspondence concerning the society or membership should be sent to Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, 900 Colorow Road, Golden, CO 80401 | www.coloarts-crafts.org



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Make a special gift of the growing enthusiasm, activism and educational opportunities offered by the Colorado Arts and Crafts Society. Our members are always the first to learn about our special events, such as our annual Winter Symposium and Gathering of the Guilds, plus neighborhood walking tours and field trips to significant Arts and Crafts sites. Plus, as members they'll receive discounted or free admission to all CACS events, and our quarterly newsletter. Give a gift today!

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