On View

February 2012

Current Exhibit: Artful Strings: Four Centuries of Harp Making

Announcement:

The Winter Park Paint Out
April 22 through April 28, 2012

Paint Out Artist Mary Jane Volkmann

Our Next Exhibit:

A Parisian Affair: The Art of Andre Renoux
May 22 – Sept. 23, 2012
Dear Friends of The Polasek,

Welcome back! I have the honor of having been elected president of the Albin Polasek Foundation Board of Trustees. It is a three-year commitment, and I am looking forward to serving. I have been energized by the support I have received from my fellow trustees, our immediate past president Jere Daniels, our Executive Director Debbie Komanski and our tireless staff.

I have to say, there are giants in our midst. Last year we were awarded challenge grants by two of the most prestigious philanthropic organizations in Winter Park designed to secure our ability to expand staff. Because of the generosity of those foundations and the matched generosity of many of you, I can announce we have fulfilled the requirements for The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation's grant to add a development professional, and our search is underway. In addition, we are well on schedule to complete The Galloway Foundation's grant to add a full-time curator, who has already joined The Polasek team. (We are needing only $10,000 ... please help if you can). Her name is Rachel Frisby and you can see the evidence of her expertise with our current exhibition she fully curated, entitled “Artful Strings: Four Centuries of Harp Making” — a collaborative exhibition with The International Harp Museum. When you come, make it a point to say hello and welcome her.

I must also take this opportunity to celebrate the indelible mark Jere Daniels has made on The Polasek. Continuing the fiscally responsible perspective of our beloved Wil Wisler, Jere’s leadership further secured the future of The Polasek by paying off the east property mortgage and finalizing some international license arrangements. Our historic home got new roofing and office renovation, the gardens received a new irrigation system, much of our collection was conserved and the Wilson Monument was dedicated in Prague. Simply amazing. Jere continues to serve as Past President and is an active trustee. So as we look toward the horizon, if we see further, it is because we stand on the shoulders these giants.

Mark Terry
President
Albin Polasek Foundation Board of Trustees

Welcome to the Albin Polasek Foundation Board of Trustees . . .
Pamela Paisley, our current Garden Volunteer Coordinator, is a former high school teacher with a second career in urban planning. She is fascinated by the development of community and improving the built environment. She and husband Glenn have traveled extensively, living in New Zealand and throughout Southeast Asia. She participates in the Master Gardener Program at the Orange County Extension Service.
Winter Park Paint Out Update

The 2012 Winter Park Paint Out Event is getting close. Twenty-six artists will be painting in the Winter Park area during the week of April 22nd through April 28th. Thirteen are from the Central Florida area, thirteen are from outside the Central Florida area; and three come from outside the state of Florida. You can find out a lot more about these artists by visiting the website at www.winterparkpaintout.org. With such diversity, the event promises to be very exciting.

The artist schedule for the event is:

- Sunday April 22 - 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm
- Monday April 23 to Friday April 27 - 10:00 am until 6:00 pm
- Saturday April 28 - 10:00 am until 12:00 noon

The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, host of the Winter Park Paint Out, will hold an open house all week with no charge to the public. The event offers a rewarding and exciting patron program. One hundred percent of a Patron’s investment is guaranteed to go towards the purchase of artwork. The Winter Park Paint Out is one of the few art events that will give 100% credit of a Patron commitment towards purchasing artwork. Please visit the website at www.winterparkpaintout.org for details on how to become a Patron.

The Paint Out concludes with a special ticketed evening event - The Paint Out Garden Party— which takes place Saturday, April 28, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All artists will be present during this event to discuss their work, and artwork will be available for purchase. Tickets for The Paint Out Garden Party are available through the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens. They are priced $45 in advance, $60 at the door. Be sure to purchase your tickets soon. Space is limited and the event has reached capacity each year.

Call the museum at (407) 647-6294 for additional information or visit the Winter Park Paint Out web site at www.winterparkpaintout.org for more details.
Sculptures and Their Stories by Trudy Furno

In the year 2012, we are going to direct our attention to some Polasek sculptures whose whereabouts are presently in the “unknown” category. Have you seen “Bubble?” “Bubble” was a sculpture created by Albin Polasek in Chicago in answer to a request for a companion piece to one of his previous works, “Aspiration.” According to records from the Roman Bronze Foundry in New York where Mr. Polasek had his works cast, there were four produced between 1917 and 1920 and one more in 1929. In all probability, several more may exist which have been left undocumented due to a late 1920s fire at the Roman Bronze establishment which destroyed many of their records.

The Polasek Museum has a “Bubble,” located in the Salon. In addition, “Bubble” was gifted to fellow artists such as Leopold Seyffert, a famous portrait painter of the Gilded Age; and Wilson Irvine, a painter in the Old Lyme School, in return for their gifts of a charcoal portrait and an oil painting, both of which can be seen in the Polasek home. Polasek met those fellow creative spirits when both were lecturers at the Art Institute of Chicago during the time in which he was head of the Sculpture Department there.

“Bubble” also makes an appearance in the background of a self-portrait by Leopold Seyffert painted in 1931 entitled “In My Studio,” but according to Mr. Seyffert’s grandson, Robert, the family no longer owns this sculpture. Currently, a “Bubble” is now for sale on eBay for $7,800.00. At this writing, she is still available if you would like to own a Polasek creation of your own! If you know of an existing “Bubble,” please let us know. Join us in the hunt for missing Polasek artwork! More next time . . . .
A Closer Look at an Iconic Instrument

By Curator, Rachel Frisby

Have you ever attended a harp concert? Me neither. I think it’s safe to assume most of us have heard harp music at one time or another, but it is a completely altering experience to see a harpist perform live. Behind the scene curating “Artful Strings: Four Centuries of Harp Making,” I’ve been treated to a few impromptu harp performances from the Directors of the International Harp Museum. I’ve been astounded by the beauty of the sound and also been completely enthralled watching the harpist’s lightning quick movements. If you are like me and have never witnessed this in person, I urge you to attend one of our FREE concerts at the Broadway United Methodist Church in Orlando. The artists scheduled to perform are some of the nation’s best professional harpists. This exhibition opened January 17th and runs through April 15th. Indulge yourself and stop by the Albin Polasek Museum and discovery this fascinating instrument. You’ll be able to try plucking some strings yourself and be able to appreciate just how much skill and dexterity the harp demands. The harp appears to be an intimidating instrument, but I assure you, it’s fun to play!

In addition to all the wonderful concerts, art history enthusiasts should not miss the Sunday, March 11th presentation with Dr. Roslyn Rensch. Dr. Rensch is a renowned art historian who has written several harp related books, and served as the primary source for the bulk of the research for this exhibit. She will be discussing the topic, “Harps in Art” followed by a book signing at the Winter Park Public Library.

Programming Details:

February 11 - 12, 2012 – “Arts Fest” Weekend
Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Visitors can come to the Polasek Museum and hear harpists playing live harp music periodically throughout the weekend. We will also have on-going children’s activities for families to participate in together. The historic Polasek residence and chapel will be open for visitors to self-guide. No reservations required. Admission is free for Arts Fest Weekend.

Sunday, February 19 – Jazz Harp Concert
3:00 pm at the Broadway United Methodist Church
406 E. Amelia St, Orlando, FL 32803
This is a harp concert featuring the talents of Park Stickney. Mr. Stickney is the world’s foremost jazz harpist. He is winner of the International Jazz & Pop Harp Competition and Visiting Professor of Jazz Harp at the Royal Academy of Music, London. No admission, donations appreciated.

Sunday, February 26th - Castlebay Celtic Harp Concert
3:00 pm at the Broadway United Methodist Church
406 E. Amelia St, Orlando, FL 32803
This concert features traditional Celtic music by Castlebay, Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee. Their program is a blend of storytelling, ballads, and music played on Celtic harp, guitar, fiddle, Irish flute and tin whistle. This concert is made possible by a generous grant from the American Harp Society. No admission; donations appreciated.

Sunday, March 25th - Aletheia Duo Harp and Flute Concert
3:00 pm at the Broadway United Methodist Church
406 E. Amelia St, Orlando, FL 32803
This is a harp concert featuring the “Aletheia Duo”- Ann Yeung on the harp, and Jonathan Keeble on the flute. This concert is made possible by a generous grant from the American Harp Society. No admission; donations appreciated.

Sunday, April 1 – Classical Harp Concert
3:00 pm at the Broadway United Methodist Church
406 E. Amelia St, Orlando, FL 32803
For this concert Elizabeth Hainen will present a program of solo classical music. She is solo harpist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and serves on the faculty of Curtis Institute of Music and Temple University. She was silver medalist in the first USA International Harp Competition. No admission; donations appreciated.

For additional information about harps please contact the International Harp Museum:
Email: IHMinfo@InternationalHarpMuseum.org
Phone: (407) 970-1508   And also on Facebook!
5 Broadway Ct, Orlando, FL 32803

Museum visitors enjoy playing the “demonstration harp” a Lyon & Healy Electroacoustic Pedal.
Thank You Winter Park Health Foundation!
When you see us zooming about the garden in a spiffy green golf car, you mustn’t think we’ve gotten lazy, but realize how much more we are getting done. Gardening is a fitness activity, for both one’s mental and physical health. Some days are more physical than others. We risk sore backs and aching feet, especially when there is hard pruning to be done and lots of debris to move from one end of the property to another. With Winter Park Health Foundation assistance we have been able to purchase a reconditioned golf car with a dumping cart to tow behind it. Fewer achy muscles mean more garden enjoyment!

“Man Carving” Gets a New Design
The small island where “Man Carving His Own Destiny” stands has become overgrown and lost its design continuity. Once the dramatic focal point of Mr. Polasek’s entrance, traffic and parking patterns have changed over the years, so our guests see the side of “Man Carving” as they approach him. Ideally, the sculpture should be rotated in the bed, however the $5000 cost to do so is currently prohibitive. Nonetheless, you will see some major improvements in the area which will remove some large distractions and refine the design over the next several months. Facilities Assistant and Landscape Designer, Byron Walker and our new Valencia College intern, Dottie Hanna, will lead this project.
Our Plant Palette -
What's That Tree?

Recently I observed a young couple admiring our
oft-painted and stately Bald Cypress that stands at
Lake Osceola’s edge. *Taxodium distichum* is a
member of the Yew (*Taxodiacea*) family and is a
slow-growing and long-lived massive conifer that
can reach heights of 100-200 feet and grow to 3 to
6 feet in diameter. Support for its height is pro-
vided by large roots and by its characteristic
“knees” that appear above nearby water. Its dis-
tinctive feathery leaves lie on flat blades that first
appear bright green in spring and provide fall color,
changing to a deep orange. To the west of the
large specimen is a small Charlie Brown Christmas
tree in the same family. It is *Taxodium distichum*
“Cascade Falls,” a weeping Bald Cypress, which
becomes a ground cover unless it is supported, as
we have done with ours. It will stay small but in
time will become a cascading show stopper in its own right. The bald cypress has many uses including housing wildlife; mosquito control; tertiary sewage treatment facilities for improving water quality and recharging groundwater.

Volunteer News
Welcome New Volunteers

Beekeeper and butterfly lover
Dottie Hanna is volunteering
and interning from the Valencia
College Horticulture program.
Bonnie Cochran, Anne Sondag,
and Suzie Crook are garden
lovers with a range of skills we
are eager to put to good use.
Lori Cordona has finally been
able to rejoin the garden group!
We are always eager to
welcome newcomers! Check
www.polasek.org/volunteer
for more info.

The spirited Polasek Garden
Gang celebrated 2012 in style
with a potluck lunch. Ringing in the new gardening year with a champagne toast, we feasted on an array of hors d’oeuvres, jambalaya, chili, quiches, salads, and desserts. Eating and gardening doesn’t get any better than this. Join us!

A big thank you to Marilyn Terborg! The Polasek is recipient of a $500 Brio Real Estate grant awarded to any non-profit organiza-
tion which makes our community a better place to live. Marilyn nominated the Polasek, promptly forgot about it, and was re-
mined by a letter’s arrival which told of Brio’s decision. Marilyn says she has never won anything, but this is a BIG win for all of us.
Thank you, Marilyn!

Wish List - This is a big one!

In our longstanding effort to be good neighbors and provide privacy, noise abatement, and a uniform look, we would like to
fence the west side of the property from the sidewalk to just behind the chapel. Fence designs and materials are presently
being reviewed. Please consider donating a fence panel or two to help us defray this large expense.
Michael and Aimee Rusinko Kakos have agreed to match up to $2,000 for this worthy project.
Peace & Balance in the Gardens

All sessions will be held rain or shine.
Class size limited, non-refundable, pre-registration is required.
Call Claire at 407-647-6294 or email: info@polasek.org
Cost: $10 per session, $60 for six sessions
Discount for Museum Members: $8 per session $48 for six sessions

—Guided Imagery & Meditation Sessions—
Experience the connection between your body and your spirit in these 60-minute guided imagery and meditation sessions. Mental health counselor and fitness instructor, Teri Reuter will show you how to utilize your breathing and your imagination to calm anxiousness, relieve stress and experience balance in your life. Bring an exercise mat and a throw on cool days.

11:30am – 12:30 pm in the Gardens
• Tuesday, April 3, 2012: Relaxation Response
  Breathe effectively to reduce stress and anxiety.
• Tuesday, April 10, 2012: Good Fences
  Create effective boundaries to encourage positive relationships with yourself and others.
• Tuesday, April 17, 2012: Situation Zero
  Discover zero stress, zero worry and 100% calm.
• Tuesday, April 24, 2012: Interdependent Selves
  Integrate the various aspects of you and the roles you play out in your life.

—Tai Chi / Qigong Sessions—
Experience the health benefits of movement and relaxation through Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan and Qigong. Instructor Bill Burnette will lead beginners and Tai Chi enthusiasts in the practice of Tai Chi in the serene and scenic Polasek sculpture gardens.
10:00am – 11:00 am in the Gardens
Saturdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 2012