Summer 2009
Polasek
Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens
2009-2010 Season Preview
Special Member Opening Reception
September 15, 2009
(See page 8 for details)
Polasek Book Now Available
The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens is pleased to present this lovely full-color, hardback, fine art book depicting Albin Polasek’s extraordinary life along with the home and gardens he loved so well. Within this 64-page volume, exquisite photography and text illustrate the art and life of internationally acclaimed artist Albin Polasek, his home and extensive sculpture gardens that are filled with classical and whimsical sculpture set on the famous Winter Park chain of lakes. Retail for $49.95 (+S&H). All proceeds from the sale of this book go to benefit the museum. If you join or renew your membership at the $200 level or higher, you will receive a complimentary copy of this book as a thank-you for your generous support.

This book has been made possible by generous grants from
The Community Foundation of Central Florida
Sundance Graphics
Terry/Kane Orlando (TKO)

Welcome New Board Members
The Polasek’s Board of Trustees welcomes two new members

Todd Deery has more than a decade of marketing and communication experience both in and out of education. Currently he is Communication & Admission Director at the University of Central Florida Graduate Program: Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA). Previously Todd was coordinator of marketing at Valencia Community College for seven years and a copywriter at the ad agency YP&B. For 12 years he has been an adjunct professor of English and humanities and has taught at Stetson University and Valencia. He is also a freelance music and article writer and has published poetry in several national journals.

Todd Ruopp has more than 20 years of marketing and business development experience with a variety of non-profit and for-profit organizations. He has been a volunteer, fundraiser, board member and chairperson for organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Society to Prevent Blindness and the American Society of Association Executives. He currently serves on the Governmental Affairs Committee for the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce and is on the Board of Directors for the Central Florida chapter of the Association for Fundraising Professionals and the League of Women Voters of Orange County.

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New Season Opens with Works by Don Howard
(Opening Reception Invitation see page 8)

Mixed media artist Don Howard’s bold, colorful, creative and extremely three dimensional hand-crafted sun gods and ancestral art is featured in the museum’s first exhibit of the 2009-2010 season, “Modern Primitives: Sculptural Images of Don Howard” running from September 1 through October 11, 2009. Howard’s wall-mounted relief sculptures evoke the look of Aztec and Incan deities, while other pieces draw upon African imagery, with angular mask-like faces and tribal coloring.

Made from wood, foam, papier-mâché, plastic, wire and even stone, Howard uses whatever medium is necessary to bring his concepts to life. Called “exercises in creativity” by the artist, Don Howard’s works are found in private collections and business locations throughout the United States.

Also featured in the exhibition will be mixed media drawings and paintings by the artist spanning decades of his work. Howard works in watercolor, pencil, pen and ink, oil, wood, stone and mixed media.

Don Howard was born in 1928 in McGuffy, Ohio, growing up in Kent, Ohio. In the 1940s he served two tours of duty in Japan with the U.S. Army then as a paratrooper in the 1950s. Howard and his wife/manager Joanne moved to Winter Park in 1955. A diverse man with a multitude of interests and hobbies, Howard worked as an advertising manager at Eckerd’s corporate for a number of years, and later co-owned “Woodworks” at the old Colony Theater in Winter Park. He has also had his hand in landscaping and publication businesses locally.

Douglas Nesbitt: My Camera Speaks For Me
October 13-November 15, 2009

This retrospective exhibition of more than 35 photographs represents the most potent images of photographer Douglas Nesbitt. He captures the human condition and the world around us in this thought-provoking one-man-show featuring works chosen by the artist. During the exhibition’s run, there will be a panel discussion and a photography workshop.

A photographer without a specialty, Nesbitt considers himself to be a “journeyman with a camera”. Crossing all photographic boundaries, his images are found in advertising, architecture, portraiture, fine art and photo journalism. Douglas Nesbitt’s photographs are powerful compositions that speak to the viewer because every element – patterns in the background, signs in the corner, the angle of a face – add something to the narrative of the photograph.

Douglas Nesbitt was born in South Bronx, New York. He was a photography/journalism major at Los Angeles City College, beginning his professional career as a production still photographer for Norman Lear Productions and Trump Films. In 1982 Nesbitt was commissioned by Warner Brothers to document the original set-designs for Ridley Scott’s sci-fi epic “Blade Runner”. Later he was the in-house photographer for Italian des- igner Antonio Guiseppe and the campaign photographer for Jesse Jackson’s presidential campaign. He covered the 1984 Olympics for ABC sports.

Over his 30 year career, Nesbitt has photographed such notables as comedians George Carlin and Joan Rivers, the “first lady of theater” Helen Hays, heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield, writer Henry Miller, supermodels Kim Alexis and Beverly Johnson, music legend Bo Diddley, Academy Award winning composers Henry Mancini and Randy Newman and golf legend Arnold Palmer.
Your membership is vital to the museum. Please join or renew today!

Volunteers needed for the 2009-2010 Season starting September 1, 2009
We have on-going openings in the following areas:

Docents, Gallery Receptionists, Gardeners, Sculpture Care, Special Events, Gift Shop Coordinator
407-647-6294
www.polasek.org
Please pass this on to friends and family!

Intern Spotlight

Move over, Sherlock Holmes, the Polasek has its own detective. Not your typical gumshoe with a corpse and a crime, but an art sleuth with an eye for detail. Through the internship program at UCF, Trudy Furno became the museum’s intern in the fall of 2008. Normally, when the semester ends, the internship ends as well.

Not so with Trudy’s internship. She has remained at the museum since then, continuing to be our star researcher, even since her graduation in May. Her determination in locating works of art by Albin Polasek has paid off significantly, with Trudy able to verify the location of (so far) 10+ works previously listed in the catalogue raisonée as “location unknown.”

How does she do it? With a dogged knack for sifting through archival letters and newspapers, picking out details that are easily missed, sending a multitude of letters and sheer talent.

Perhaps the most endearing item that Trudy was able to locate was a “toast” that Albin Polasek enjoyed singing to his guests during special celebrations. The singing of this long-forgotten Czech toast continued with Polasek’s beloved Elizabeth (daughter of his friends Percy and Helen Eckhart) and is still sung by Elizabeth’s children and grandchildren. The toast goes as follows:

Zivijo, Zivijo, Zivijo, Zivijo. Cheers, cheers, cheers,
Muoga leta, zdrzvi byli. Live for many years,
Muoga leta, Zivijo. Be healthy many years,
Zivijo, Zivijo, Zivijo, Zivijo! Cheers, cheers, cheers.

(Special thanks to Alex Boguslawski for the modern translation.)

Look for a regular feature on Mr. Polasek’s works and where they are today in future newsletters.

Trudy Furno on her recent visit to Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford, CT in front of the Batterson Memorial by Albin Polasek, marble, 1919.

Elizabeth by Albin Polasek, bronze, 1920.
Summer Changes While most of you were trying to stay cool this summer, staff and volunteers were rearranging several rooms in the historic Polasek residence. The residence is annually reorganized to rotate Albin Polasek’s works and his personal collection items, keeping the artwork “fresh” for our docents and returning visitors. Three of Albin Polasek’s collection items on display for the 2009-2010 Season haven’t been displayed publicly for a number of years.

Elihu Vedder’s (1836-1923) relief sculpture, Soul in Bondage, originally was exhibited at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Since it was last installed at the museum in 2006 it has been fully restored. Vedder worked in the same spirit as British Victorian artists and is considered an ‘American Pre-Raphaelite.’ On display for the first time since 2007, Boy with Urn by Polasek’s mentor Charles Grafly (1862-1929) is a colored wax sculpture measuring only 1’’ in height. Also on display is Grafly’s Aquarius sculpture, originally made as a part of Grafly’s famous Zodiac Clock in Philadelphia. Both works reflect Albin Polasek’s astrological sign of Aquarius.

2009-2010 Season Exhibition Preview

October 13 - November 15, 2009: My Camera Speaks For Me

November 24, 2009 - April 18, 2010: Maidens and Monsters -- The Art of Science Fiction, Adventure and Fantasy

February 2 - April 25, 2010: The Bach Festival Celebrates 75 Years

February 12 – 14, 2010: Art in Bloom

February 17 - April 4, 2010: Decorated Eggs of Europe and America

April 24 - May 16: Winter Park Paint Out and Paint Out Exhibit

May 25 - June 30: An Attraction to Abstraction -- The Fluid Life of Bruce Gregory and The Hippie House Revisited

2009-2010 Season Special Programs Preview

October 28, 2009, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Czech Independence Day

In recognition of the creation of a free and independent Czechoslovakia in 1918, all visitors to the museum will be admitted for free. Regularly scheduled docent tours will focus on Albin Polasek’s Czech influenced works. Refreshments will be served.

February 14, 2010, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Albin Polasek’s Birthday Celebration

Apple strudel, kolache and Viennese coffee will be served on the patio during this celebration of Albin Polasek’s birthday. Refreshments will be served.

April 2, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Good Friday

The museum is open free of charge with guided tours throughout the day.

May 1, 2010, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Paint Out Celebration

The “Paint Out” artists will be present at the museum’s annual fundraiser, where patrons will be able to purchase works created during the previous week. This ticketed garden party will feature spectacular artwork, heavy hors d’oeuvres, wine and beer. Call 407-647-6294 for information.

Mark Your Calendar: Ayako Yonetani at the Polasek

The museum’s annual 3-concert music series features internationally acclaimed violin/viola player Ayako Yonetani and a variety of guest instrumentalists. Held in the Polasek residence, concert-goers experience acoustic perfection in an intimate setting. Limited to 50 seats, the performance is followed by a private reception. Ayako Yonetani at the Polasek: Exclusive Chamber Concert Series


All concerts this season run from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Tickets are $30 per person per concert or $80 per person for the season.
Notes from the Garden...

Field trip to Kanapaha

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens in Gainesville is another one of Florida’s garden gems. Situated near Lake Kanapaha, this 62 acre facility is a magnificent natural landscape enhanced by rare and unusual plants from around the world. Integrated into the meadows of lakeside forest is a Butterfly Garden, Vinery, Hummingbird Garden and the largest Herb Garden in the southeastern US. Kanapaha’s water gardens include ponds, waterfalls, streams and a giant Victoria water lily garden. The Bamboo Forest is boasted to be the largest public collection of bamboo. A walk through the Palm Hammock and rock gardens takes you from the tropics to the desert.

Founder and Director Don Goodman has overseen the development of the property since the 1970s and will graciously host our garden volunteers on an educational and inspirational trip.

The Cycad Walk and Jurassic Garden

Work is underway on a new cycad walk. Cycads are cone-bearing, palm-like plants that have thrived in tropical and subtropical settings since dinosaurs walked the land. Zamia furfuracea (Cardboard palm) and Zamia floridana (Coontie) are two cycads common to the central Florida landscape. Bob Johnson, President of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society approached Landscape Curator, Randy Knight, with an offer that could not be refused, a grant of $500 worth of cycads to add to the Garden. A condition of this grant was a $200 match of funds. If you would like to contribute to this match please let us know.

Twenty-four cycads and six palms will be installed in both sun and shade portions of the garden along the driveway. High on Randy’s wish list is funding for the appropriate ancient groundcovers to install as well. Among these are Horsetail, Whisk fern, Giant leather fern, Southern Wood fern, Cinnamon and Royal ferns, all Florida natives.

Many thanks go to Landscape Architect Greg Reynolds, President of Aloha Pacifica LLC and Landscape Designer/Sculpture Byron Walker, President of Avant’ Garden Designs. Greg and Byron are two of Randy’s go-to-guys for design assistance when his volunteers are unable to visualize the next project. Randy is the visionary and Greg and Byron bring his vision to reality. The changes to the butterfly garden, the many paths throughout the property and the developing Cycad Walk have all been completed with their assistance.
**Vegetable Garden**

One of the scourges of the Florida soil is the lowly root knot nematode. A microscopic worm, it bores into the roots of host plants where it lays its eggs, spawning yet another generation of pest. Plants show signs of stress and failure to thrive. An examination of the plant’s roots reveals twisted, knotty, tortured looking roots.

Our vegetable garden has become home to these pests. The natural and chemical free solution is to remove all plant material and cover the ground with clear plastic for up to six or eight weeks. Let the heat do its work. Unsightly but effective, we will have sterile, nematode-free soil in time for planting mid-August.

Volunteer Leo Hartman has started seeds for the fall season crop of tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and cucumbers. He has also undertaken another major chore. Leo’s expertise is in preparing seedlings and growing them for market. Knox Nursery in Winter Garden has provided the seedlings, or plugs, and Leo will raise them. When a suitable size our volunteers will transplant them to the garden. This will be the first year we will really be able to plan ahead for the plant material we want in the garden. Thank you Leo!

**Plant of the Month**

*Angiopteris evecta*, also called Madagascar Tree Fern, Giant or King Fern or Mulesfoot Fern is one of the latest additions to our plant collection. It is a tree fern that can attain heights of fifteen feet or more, while the fronds can spread up to twenty-five feet. Native to Madagascar and the Seychelles it has been planted in the picnic area.

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**Plant Inventory Underway**

Ever wonder how many different plants there are at the Polasek? Right now we have over 275 plant varieties noted and still counting! Volunteer Pam Paisley has embarked on an administrative project that will provide valuable information to the garden staff and our visitors. She is developing spreadsheets of all the plant material on the grounds, recording such information as plant family, genus, species, common name, region of origin, and location in the garden. This project is a prelude to a future application to become an accredited botanical garden. This accreditation status may enable us to qualify for program funding and would add to our prestige in the garden community. The museum’s collection database can accommodate natural history accessions: funding is required to convert the data from spreadsheet to the database.

**Volunteer Thanks**

This summer has been especially hot and sticky in the garden. Although we try to find shady spots to work, weeds do grow in the sun! We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge our tireless volunteers, especially Leo, Doc, Suzanne, Barry, Randy, Betsy, Arthur, Liz, Jack and Pam.

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**Interested novice and experienced gardeners are invited to join the Polasek garden volunteers Tuesday and Thursday from 9am - 12 noon**

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**Wish List**

- Funding for plant identification signage (approx. $250)
- Funding for data conversion (approx. $500)
- New wheels for Vermont Cart (approx. $80)
- Funding for plants in Cycad Garden (approx. $300)
The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens
Board of Trustees cordially invites you to a
Garden Reception Celebrating
Modern Primitives
Works by
Don Howard
Tuesday, September 15, 2009
6:00 to 8:00 pm - Meet the Artist
Exhibit runs through October 11, 2009
RSVP by Friday, September 11
Call: 407-647-6294 or email: info@polasek.org

633 Osceola Ave., Winter Park, Florida 32789