

Denmark  
Finland  
Iceland  
Norway  
Sweden

October, 2011

**fall membership meeting** Saturday, October 22, 10 AM - 12:30 PM

*On the Agenda* Current and future exhibitions  
*Program* Maj-Britt Hilstrom: Drawing on the iPad  
Marc Ellen Hamel: Norse Runes  
*Hosted by* Maj-Britt Hilstrom, 8665 Don Carol Dr., El Cerrito, CA 94530

## unveiling of kati casida's sculpture "JONSOK"

*"The overlaying of circles symbolizes the strong bonds that connect generations of Norwegian immigrants to their roots and to their family members who stayed behind. The flames represent energy and search for the new as they dissolve into the vast emptiness of the sky."*

- Kati Casida

Casida, whose great grandparents came from the Luster Municipality in Sogn, Norway, paid a visit there in the early 1980's on Midsummer's Day (Jonsok.\*) She made a small model of a bonfire which was exhibited and it was at that time that the idea emerged to produce a sculpture the size of a real bonfire.

Source: Sogn News, March 13, 2011

\*The summer solstice is celebrated by numerous countries and differs according to country and culture. Midsummer's Day is also known as St. John's Day. In Norway, it is called "Sankthansaften," celebrated on June 23 with large bonfires. A second name used is "Jonsok," meaning "John's wake."



"Jonsok" by Kati Casida was unveiled in Skjolden, Norway, June 23, 2011. Painted aluminum, 10" x 10" x 10"



**congratulations, kati!**

"Jonsok" is placed in a spectacular location at the head of the longest navigable fjord in the world - Sognefjorden. The artist Magne Vangsnes was a driving force behind the commission, which became a reality with private and public funding. The unveiling was attended by 300 people, including the governor of the district, many local dignitaries and members of Kati's family.

## art scene in denmark by elizabeth stokkebye



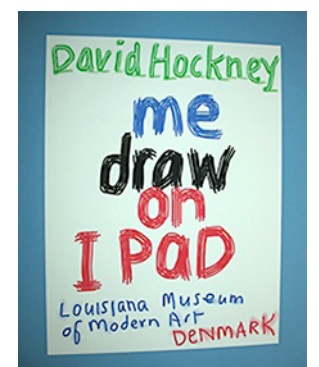
On my recent trip to Denmark, I visited Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense. In each city I made a special trip to the contemporary art museums to see what was happening right now. My first stop was ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, where the Danish/Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson had recently installed "Your Rainbow Panorama" on top of the museum building. Like a color wheel seemingly floating on top of the square brick building, the installation commands both presence and awe seen from the ground; once inside, however, it surpassed my first impression. From the roof of the building, I followed the crowd through a set of stairs that brought me inside the rainbow panorama where I was free to walk the circle. The first color sensation I encountered was green which felt welcoming. Through the green colored Plexiglas, I saw buildings, horizon and sky coming together as one: harmony. When walking through the yellows, the city and the sky took on a warm glow like a painting by Vermeer. As I continued into the red zone, a sense of age was even more pronounced as the pink sky and the red city called out for permanence. The blues and purples completed the circle and made me feel not only cold but depressed. [www.aros.dk](http://www.aros.dk)

My second stop was Odense, the city where I come from. At Kunsthallen Brandts, I was lucky to see a show by recent graduates from Funen Art Academy. From painting and sculpture to photography, video and installation art, the show encompassed a wide variety of themes: the environment, personal narratives, gender identity, immigration and language. Besides its changing exhibits, Brandts has a permanent collection of art, photography and video. There is also a media section specializing in the history of the printed and electronic media - from runes to radio and from books to blogs. [www.brandts.dk](http://www.brandts.dk)

My final art museum stop was Louisiana, north of Copenhagen. The main exhibit was "LIVING, Frontiers of Architecture III-IV." The exhibit consisted of a crossover between architectural projects, art installations and case stories from various places in the world. The exhibition took its point of departure from the DREAM - a theme closely linked to childhood fantasies and manifested in a piece "My Home, My House, My Stilthouse" erected in the Louisiana Park by conceptual artist Arne Quinze. He is known for installations at the Burning Man Festival in the Nevada Desert, which through video and photography was included as part of the segment "CELL and NETWORK," and represented how we live, act and behave as individuals and in groups. The third segment "HOMELAND" posed a question: what really defines a home, and how do we use it to showcase our identity and arrange the rituals of everyday life? Louisiana also offered a curious exhibit by David Hockney whose display included several hundred drawings that were first done on the iPhone and later on the iPad. I liked how the drawings expressed his rather stylized art. Because of his choice of colors, forms and shapes, the drawings were alive and inviting. [www.louisiana.dk](http://www.louisiana.dk)

Photographs by Elizabeth Stokkebye

Left: Views of ARoS Aarhus Art Museum; Right: Self explanatory



## artist news

**Jason Englund** has started an MFA program at UC Davis. He has been nominated as one of 20 semi-finalist in the Alameda County Arts Commission 2-D Small Scale Artwork Commission for Highland Hospital. 14 artists will be selected in January 2012 to create new work promoting positive, healing environments for the hospital. **Mark Erickson** has a solo show at Robert Green Fine Arts, 154 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley, through October 31. His paintings received a glowing description at a recent show in New Orleans: "Erickson's paintings delve into the realm of illusion, giving the viewer a chance to untangle the puzzle of each intriguing image. Shapes interact to create new forms; colors are juxtaposed to produce shimmering effects." **Ellen Faris** has spent several months in Norway where she participated in a group show in September at the store/gallery "Home and Fashion" in Asker. **Marc Ellen Hamel** has created a collection of "Barn Quilts," paintings on wood to be affixed to barns. **Anne Oseberg** is exhibiting at three shows in Redwood City: Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Oct 2-27; Society of Western Art, 2625 Broadway St., through November; and AWC Annex Gallery, 801 Middle Field Rd, through November 26. **Loren Rehbock** has moved to Napa, but will continue to participate in our shows. The library at St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA, has accepted **Diane Rusnak's** donation of her large archive of books, articles, pictures and posters collected during her 30 years of teaching. The "Rusnak-Cassell Women Artist Archives" will be a great resource for students and teachers. **Elizabeth Stokkebye** has moved to Oakland and is happy to be back in the Bay Area art scene. She is participating in "The Sketchbook Project" (see information below.) **Helene Sobol** has designed a book, "Wednesday River - New Poetry," written and illustrated by Barbara Hazard, a Berkeley artist and poet. Available on Amazon. **Barbara Stevens Strauss** is showing her ikebana art of flower arrangement & ceramics at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Suite 290, Oakland, through January 2012.



### recent work

clockwise from upper left

B. Stevens Strauss

Mark Erickson

Helene Sobol

Marc Ellen Hamel

Ellen Faris

*Wednesday River*  
New Poetry



Barbara Hazard



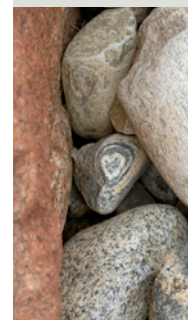
Betty Rasicot Pillsbury carving a 10 ft. cross section of nara hardwood in her studio. Top photo: The artist with Colette Crutcher, Norma Andersen Fox and Helene Sobol. Photos by Adrienne Hayes

## minutes spring meeting, May 21, 2011

**present:** Betty Pillsbury (host), Nancy Hayes, Lee Williams, Marc Ellen Hamel, Pat Bengtson-Jones, Kati Casida, Colette Crutcher, Loren Rehbock, Russell Herrman, Elizabeth Stokkebye, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Maj-Britt Moberand, Helene Sobol, Norma Andersen Fox, Barbara Stevens Strauss. Guests: Adrienne Hayes and Matlena Hourula.

**PLU tacoma exhibit:** Pat Bengtson-Jones, who attended the reception at the Scandinavian Center at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in Tacoma, WA, reported on a nice exhibition space and a well mounted show. The reception was well attended and Dorothy McCall gave a thoughtful and interesting PowerPoint presentation about the works on display. Maj-Britt Moberand reported that she sold a wall hanging shortly after the opening. Marc Ellen Hamel and Ellen Faris drove up together and assisted the PLU curator with the unpacking and installation, a three day endeavor. Many events take place there and the show will be seen by many. The bookshop will sell smaller items by some of the exhibiting artists. **leadership and committees:** Helene and Marc Ellen will share duties as Co-coordinators. Treasury Report: \$1,529.74, minus expenses for the exhibition catalogs. **new members:** Lee Williams and Jason Olerud. **miscellaneous:** Please send PR info to Kati. Share your event, activities and photos and she will try to promote and send on to the Chronicle and Nordic publications. Marc Ellen suggested that donating works to auctions can be a promotional tool. Outdoor sculptures can be exhibited in the garden at Norma Andersen Fox's residence in Oakland. In June, Kati will attend the unveiling of her sculpture, "Jonsok," permanently installed in Skjolden, Norway. New postings on Nordic5Arts website: \$50; updates \$25. **betty's studio:** We closed with a visit to Betty Pillsbury's studio, where we saw her large work in progress, a 10' disc of tropical hardwood that she is carving into a relief of women and children swimming. We also enjoyed her magical handcrafted home and her eclectic collection of arts and crafts from around the world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colette Crutcher



## stone sculpture park by Ellen Faris

This year, my most important inspiration in Norway was my visit to Sten-KunstHvaler, a rock sculpture park near Fredrikstad on the Oslo Fjord where the colorful stones are like pieces of art. I discovered a special one with a heart within a heart. It reminded me of my painting, "Healing Heart," but this looked more like a "healed heart." I also enjoyed the stone sculptures created by local and international artists. "Art to Hvaler" is an international sculpture project designed to draw attention to and carry on the strong local historic tradition found in the earlier stonecutting operations in this magnificent landscape between land and sea.

English summary: [www.stenkunsthvaler.no/](http://www.stenkunsthvaler.no/)

## the sketchbook project

Thousands of sketchbooks will be exhibited at galleries and museums as they make their way on tour across the world. After the tour, all sketchbooks will enter into the permanent collection of The Brooklyn Art Library, where they will be barcoded and available for the public to view. Anyone - from anywhere in the world - can be a part of the project.

Cities on the 1012 Tour: Brooklyn, NY - Boston, MA - Chicago, IL - San Francisco, CA - Atlanta, GA - Austin, TX - Los Angeles, CA - Philadelphia, PA - Portland, OR - Portland, ME - London, England - Melbourne, Australia - Vancouver, Canada - Toronto, Canada. [www.arthousecoop.com/projects/sketchbookproject](http://www.arthousecoop.com/projects/sketchbookproject)

A special thank you to those who have contributed to this Newsbrief... and a special request for material for the spring 2012 issue...

The nordic 5 arts NEWSBRIEF is published in spring and fall. Edited and designed by Helene Sobol.

The publication supports and promotes artists with Nordic heritage in the San Francisco Bay Area. Subscription \$10; membership dues \$25.

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