

Denmark
Finland
Iceland
Norway
Sweden

Fall 2016

nordic5arts.com

“Runes Revealed” mixed-media exhibition by members of nordic 5 arts

Pat Bengtson-Jones - Olivia Eielson - Ellen Faris - Pam Fingado - Marc Ellen Hamel - Russell Herrman - Maj-Britt Hilstrom - Matlena Hourula - Debra Jewell - Kristin Lindseth - Maj-Britt Mobrand - Karen Olsen - Helene Sobol
Barbara Stevens Strauss - Elizabeth Stokkebye - Diane Rusnak - Helena Tiainen - Lee Williams

July 8 - September 24, 2016 Scandinavian Cultural Center, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA



third
time
around

by Elizabeth Stokkebye



Our traveling show “Runes Revealed” was presented in its third venue in Tacoma, WA, and I was happy to be there for the Opening Reception on July 8. Elisabeth Ward, the Director of the Scandinavian Cultural Center at Pacific Lutheran University, and I are both UC Berkeley alumnae and she graciously hosted me in her home. This was a nice opportunity to spend time with her while preparing the last details for the show.

As an extra bonus, my daughter, Julie, and her two children attended the opening. With a passion for all things medieval and/or Viking-related, she was particularly interested in seeing our contemporary interpretation of the ancient runes of our ancestors.

After a day of last minute preparations, hanging the last art work, setting out tables and chairs, and bringing in the wine and nibbles, we settled in for an evening of lecture, networking, and Rune Art. To my surprise and delight, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, my Nordic 5 Arts colleague and exhibiting artist, came to the reception. Her beautiful work, “The Runic Stone on Frösön, Sweden,” took center spot in the gallery and was the image chosen for our postcards (left). Maj-Britt’s other artwork, “Runic Alpha Book,” was the perfect artwork to gather around when Elisabeth, Maj-Britt, and I were photographed (above).

Elisabeth Ward lectured on the ancient Norse runes, the alphabet used by the Vikings before the introduction of the Latin alphabet in the 12th century. Thereafter, I spoke about Nordic 5 Arts, and why we as artists had chosen to create this exhibition which has been shown in two previous venues. In addition to creating art inspired by our heritage, we were also inspired by the runic alphabet imbued with symbolism, mystery and an association with the Norse gods which appealed to our creative, artistic and aesthetic sense.

Photo above, left to right: Elizabeth Stokkebye, Maj-Britt Hilstrom and Elisabeth Ward, Director, Scandinavian Cultural Center, PLU

welcoming new co-coordinator
debra jewell

by Helena Tiainen

*“I look at a lot of artists... I am inspired.
Art comes from art.”*

– Cy Twombly

Our newly elected Co-Coordinator, Debra Cederborg Jewell, was born in Oakland, California. She is of Swedish heritage; her maternal great-grandparents and paternal grandparents emigrated from Central Sweden to the United States in the late 1880’s and early 1900’s. They settled in Des Moines, Iowa, and Oakland, California.

Debra spent her childhood summers on the lakes of Northern Minnesota and traveled to visit family in Sweden as a young adult. She has always felt a strong connection to her Scandinavian heritage and continues to maintain close ties through travel and genealogical research. Debra documented her family history and family tree in book form, and these resources are now in the Örebro Archive in Sweden.

Debra has loved drawing all her life and has practiced landscape architecture for over twenty years. She attended UC Berkeley, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in Landscape Architecture, and became a licensed Landscape Architect in California. After her studies, she lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Princeton, NJ, before returning to the Bay Area to live, work, and raise a family.



To view Debra’s work, visit
DebraJewell.com
and her artist page at
nordic5arts.com

Debra has been a printmaker and visual artist for the past 10-15 years. Her focus as a printmaker is “sense of place” – the experience of place, in both wilderness and the urban landscape. She works primarily with trace monotype and drypoint printmaking techniques and exhibits her work in the San Francisco Bay Area and the United Kingdom.

Debra became a member of Nordic 5 Arts in 2008 after attending the opening reception of our “Nordic Mysteries” exhibition at the Addison Street Windows Gallery in Berkeley in 2007. She related to the Nordic expression in the artworks in this exhibition and has enjoyed becoming acquainted with artist members of our group.

Debra has served on a number of volunteer boards over the years, including the California Society of Printmakers from 2008-2011. She hopes to assist Co-Coordinator Marc Ellen Hamel and Nordic 5 Arts by continuing to provide a supportive environment for our group and sharing new ideas.

Debra feels that as individual artists we inspire and challenge one another with our creativity, our imagination and our vision – and as an organization, we make an important collective contribution to the arts.

Below: Örebro 1, Trace Monotype, 20” x 32”





Olivia Eielson has two paintings, "The Warning" and "The Warning Ignored," in a show at the Encyclical Gallery, 2566 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. There will be a closing reception November 19. Entitled "Encyclical," the exhibition is based on the Pope's recent encyclical where he states that climate change is a moral issue at heart and that we have an obligation to care for one

Olivia Eielson *The Warning* (left) *The Warning Ignored* (right)

another, for the earth, and for all living creatures. Olivia passionately feels that we have a critical problem facing our environment and she worries that "we wring our hands and then go on doing what we've always been doing." **Mark Erickson** has been collaborating with his wife Elena for the last year working in a new direction they call Pop Abstraction (Cartoonesque). They are painting on canvas and wood panel and report great results and good sales. They are also involved with three exhibitions: Angela King Gallery, New Orleans, LA, Fredric Holmes Gallery, Seattle, WA, and Robert Green Fine Arts, Mill Valley, CA. **Pam Fingado** will have eight mixed media pieces in the Hallway Gallery in the Firehouse Art Center in Pleasanton, CA, through November 15. She will be showing her new work in the 26th Annual Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios on Saturdays and Sundays, November 26 & 27, December 3 & 4, 10 & 11, and 17 & 18, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Studio #34 in The Sawtooth Building, 2547 8th Street, Berkeley. Pam also coaches artists, teaches a marketing workshop, and continues to work on her book about creativity. **Marc Ellen Hamel** spent many weeks in Plumas County this summer away from her studio in San Francisco. There, she painted barn quilts on wooden boards with traditional quilt designs. Some as large as 8 feet x 8 feet, they are installed outside on the walls of barns and homes, and can be seen from the road by people driving by. **Matlena Hourula** had a show at Concept 47 in Oakland in October. This fall, she will be teaching at The Rare Bird Maker Studio in Oakland. Classes offered: "Indigo Shibori Dyeing," "Mixed Media Encaustic Wax," "Transferring Techniques."



Marc Ellen Hamel *Barn Quilt*

"Block printing on Fabric," "New Mother Art Classes," and sensory art classes for children. For information, please go to www.therebird.com. **Debra Jewell** showed recent printmaking work in the exhibition "Ink/Paper/Print" at Felix Kulpa Gallery in Santa Cruz with the Monterey Peninsula College Printmakers. She also exhibited this fall with the California Society of Printmakers at Piedmont Center for the Arts and Merced College Art Gallery.



Matlena Hourula *Desert Dreaming*



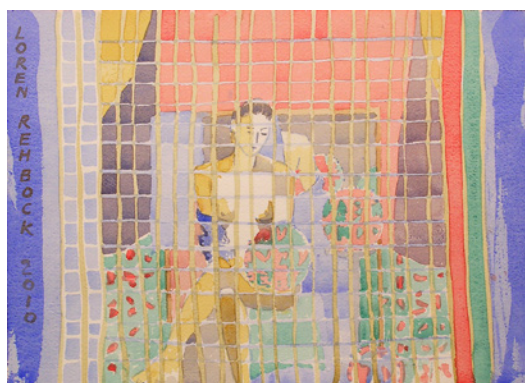
Kristin Lindseth *Labyrinth of Time*

In April, **Kristin Lindseth** participated in "Full Circle" and received First Place Award and People's Choice Award at Oakwilde Sculpture Ranch, Valley Springs, CA. She has had two solo shows this summer and fall: "Encounters" at Mission College in Santa Clara, CA, and "Inner Alchemy" at the Peninsula Museum of Art in Burlingame, CA. She also participated in "Anne and Mark's Art Party 2016," a large, weeklong art extravaganza at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose, CA.



Karen Olsen *Ancient Taro Fields, Keanae, Maui*

Karen Olsen had a solo watercolor show in August at Aegis Gallery in Saratoga, CA. "DRIPS, DRIBBLES, PUDDLES, PONDS! WATER IN WATERCOLOR!" featured paintings of water. Shown above is a triptych from this exhibit. Karen will give a watercolor demonstration at the Cambrian Art League on November 5 and teaches watercolor at the Mountain View/Los Altos Adult School and the Los Altos Recreation and Community Services.



Loren Rehbock *Seated Figure*

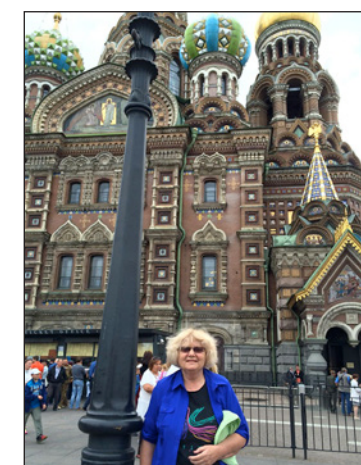
Loren Rehbock has a solo show, "Driven to Abstraction," at Dominican University, in San Rafael, CA, in the Joseph R. Fink Science Center Gallery: on view through December 14. **Barbara Stevens Strauss** recently had artwork at the Harrington Gallery in Pleasanton. She is a member of the Flower Committee at the Asian Art Museum where she creates beautiful ikebana using her own raku art pieces.

The "Berkeley Art Party" continues to roll along under her guidance, and she is inviting Nordic 5 Arts members - and their artist friends - to show their work at a future show. She is expanding to include some Saturdays during the "Berkeley Art Talk," which features artists, curators, and other arts-related professionals. In September, **Helene Sobol** took a cruise, "In the Wake of the Vikings," visiting The Shetland Islands, Iceland, Greenland and the settlement of Leif Erickson at Anse-aux-Medeaux in Newfoundland. She designed the new art banners in the Inner Sunset in San Francisco and continues to exhibit her photography in the monthly juried shows at SFWA Artists Gallery. **Elizabeth Stokkebye** has been working on launching a new website, NordicLike.com, which she will use for Nordic news, ideas, events, blogs, etc. She will link to the Nordic 5 Arts website and write a blog on our organization.



Barbara Stevens Strauss
"Iruka" with Ikebana, Asian Art Museum

Diane Rusnak spent six weeks traveling this summer, visiting family in Finland and taking part in an art exhibit in St. Petersburg, Russia. She also visited Estonia where she saw Nordic art that included many winter scenes and Russian Socialist-Realism. At the end of her trip, she enjoyed viewing the many fine art collections in Vienna.



Diane Rusnak
Church of the Spilled Blood
St. Petersburg, Russia

In St. Petersburg she joined Berkeley artist Barbara Hazard who had developed a relationship with a Russian group of artists over 30 years ago and had arranged "San Francisco Bay Area," a three artist exhibition at the Art League Gallery at the Art Center Pushkinskaya 10. Diane showed six acrylic paintings on small wooden discs from her "Food Dreams" series and reports that "Our exhibit was well attended by Russian artists, their friends and representatives from the American Consulate."

Diane stayed in St. Petersburg for a week and met some of the founding members of the Art Center Pushinskaya's collective. Thirty years ago these artists were living in small and crowded quarters around the city. When politics changed in the late 1980s, St. Petersburg gave the artists a large centrally located abandoned building, charging no rent, with artists covering utilities. 80 artists have their studios there and are free to work in different styles, many influenced by 20th century modernism. Diane also visited the Russian Museum to view contemporary art and the Hermitage where the crowds were so large that she did not enjoy her visit there. However, she describes the Church of the Spilled Blood with its magnificent onion domes and mosaics as "A true wonder."

In Vienna, Diane visited eight museums, noticing that there were few women artists represented. To her delight, she saw an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art (MUMOK) dedicated to New York feminist artists of the 1970s. She states that "This made me resolve to work harder to save the feminist archives I have compiled of East Bay women's work of the early 1970s, which has been overlooked and not celebrated, as the NY and LA movements have been."

to see artist pages and "runes revealed" catalog visit nordic5arts.com
thank you to everyone who contributed copy and photos to this issue of the newsbrief!