

**Patricia Bengtson-Jones - Agathe Bennich - Tron Bykle - Kati Casida - Colette Crutcher  
Olivia Eielson - Erik Eiserling - Mark Erickson - Ashley Jameson Eriksmoen - Pam Fingado  
Norma Anderson Fox - Kristin Gudjonsdottir - Ana Lisa Hedstrom - Russell Herrman  
Maj-Britt Hilstrom - Krystal Lokken - Margaretha Miglo - Pernilla Persson - Susan Peterson  
Diane Rusnak - Helene Sobol - Todd Verwers  
Guest Artist: Magne Vangsnes**

# **PUSHING BOUNDARIES**

nordic 5 arts

Membership Exhibition with Guest Artist Magne Vangsnes

January 6 - February 25, 2005

The Atrium

600 Townsend Street, San Francisco, California

Nordic 5 arts was founded in 1993 by Kati Casida as an organization in the San Francisco Bay Area to showcase the Nordic expression in the arts.

It is open to professional artists of Scandinavian descent or born in one of the Scandinavian countries.

During the past eleven years, nordic 5 arts has sponsored exhibitions of painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, and design. It has also sponsored folk dance, poetry readings, and lectures.

Design and layout by Helene Sobol

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Cover: Orange Peel (Detail), Kati Casida

**[www.nordic5arts.com](http://www.nordic5arts.com)**

"Pushing Boundaries" reflects a breaking away from the usual tidy and folksy concept of Nordic art. In this exhibition one sees a sometimes playful approach to form, a veiled social commentary, and various media incorporating natural elements. Some suggest a certain Scandinavian earthiness. However, there is clearly much innovative experimentation in painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, textile, and architecture.

During the past eleven years, our group of native Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American artists has presented exhibitions, lectures, and films with an emphasis on global concerns. We cross borders and exhibit our work internationally, exchanging ideas at meetings in old and new cities of the world in ways that would amaze our grandparents. Much of it emerges as conceptual art in which new images, installation, performance, and video draw from older symbols of Nordic art.

Nordic 5 arts encourages "art encounters" and invites an artist from one of the Nordic countries every two years to participate in our Membership Exhibition. This year, Magne Vangsnes, acclaimed painter, printmaker, paper maker and sculptor, is our guest artist from Norway. We are pleased to welcome him to San Francisco as we usher in Norway's Centennial Year, 1905-2005.

Kati Casida  
Coordinator and founder of nordic 5 arts

## MAGNE VANGSNES Guest Artist

Magne Vangsnes, our guest artist from Norway, is an acclaimed artist who works in many media, including painting, graphic art, sculpture, and large scale "Land Art" installations. He has developed a reputation for innovative works based on handmade paper created from grasses and bark, many collected from his own garden.

"Some of my papers are made of flax, raw linen, abaca, grasses and the inner skin bark of linden, a tree that grows wild near my home on the hillsides of Sognefjord. In this exhibition, I show paper objects, dry point, woodcuts and lithographs where the printed forms and images reflect and interact with the natural fibers in the papers."

"Edges" is a work comprised of seven elements in which Vangsnes combines layers of papers assembled in boxes, resulting in three-dimensional works where the rough edges of the papers create patterns of vertical lines with a play of light and shadows, while also revealing the subtle textures and hues of natural fibers.

Vangsnes has exhibited his works based on handmade papers in numerous international venues and his "Land Art" projects have been installed in many European countries.

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*The participation of Magne Vangsnes as guest artist was supported by the Royal Norwegian Consulate General of San Francisco. Nordic 5 arts thanks Mr. Are-Jostein Norheim, Consul General, for his assistance.*



EDGES (One of seven elements)  
Handmade paper, mixed media, L12" W12" H1.5"



HAPPY VOYAGE

White Carrara marble, copper, powder paint, cast glass;  
H19" W18" D10"

## PATRICIA BENGTSON-JONES

Wisconsin-Nordic born artist Patricia Bengtson-Jones continues to find perfect balance in order to bring a spirit of motion.

She uses monolithic forms, arches, and stacking or layering to denote time past, while working with the elements - earth, water, sun and stone - to bring unity.

"My work 'Happy Voyage' sheds some light on the unexplained phenomena of past cultures, enabling the sculpture to settle in a fantasy of somewhere between the worlds of mind and earth."

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## AGATHE BENNICH

"The March of Men' was painted in 2003-2004 at a time when I was attending many demonstrations and the idea grew on me. There was a slow buildup of the composition as I gradually became more sure of my subject and all the diverse personality types.

"The materials I work with are oil pastels and oil sticks on a medium that allows itself to be moved around. I sew my edges, thus keeping them soft."

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THE MARCH OF MEN

Mixed media on unstretched canvas; 62" x 59"



## TRON BYKLE

"The work I do is essentially about my mind experiencing itself, within the realm of physical realities and psychic facts - occasionally with terrific detours and unexpected angles. As time passes, I pass with time. The territory gets charted and I have to find new ways to entertain myself - simply in order to want to keep going.

"After 9/11, I created 'Boat' as a symbol for survival and preservation of our way of life in a time of instability and uncertainty. It is covered with a membrane of weather reports spanning the country. A mummified carcass of yellow-fin tuna, a staple of American households, is placed inside. There is also a gold piece, a token of precious intent - Where do I come from? Where are we going? Quo vadis?"

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BOAT  
Mixed media  
Photo by John E. Casida



## KATI CASIDA

"Starting with the first idea for a sculpture, I'm always conscious of moving in and out of space like a dancer. I do not sketch forms, but work directly with materials, cardboard or metal, building and subtracting. I enjoy the undulation and rhythm of emerging patterns. I search for ways to push my sculptures toward suggesting a shape but not quite revealing it. Unexpected things happen and seeing the idea finally transformed into a large public sculpture is always a fascinating experience."

Casida's prints, paper works, and sculptures are in many private and public collections. She is represented by the Steel Gallery, San Francisco.

<http://members.aol.com/kcasida>



ORANGE PEEL

Painted aluminum; L35" H18" W20"

Photo by John E. Casida



## COLETTE CRUTCHER

"These playful, spontaneous assemblage pieces are a holiday from my more representational work. I collect bits of paper, wood scraps, marbles, mysterious metal objects, and things I find on the sidewalk. Creating harmonies of shape and color with these disparate elements is therapeutic for me in a world where so much is beyond my control.

"I also enjoy the interplay of these small square paintings in various configurations with each other. It's all about relationships."

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### TANGENTS SERIES

Wood, paper, found objects, acrylic paint

Each panel 5" x 5"

## OLIVIA EIELSON

"I follow Piranesi in my fascination for the amazing structures humans can build, and in the melancholy sense that these structures will become ruins, as our unsustainable way of life gradually ends. 'Piranesi #4' portrays a giant human-made structure under water, a bit of a lost Atlantis (ours). I wanted to convey a sense of mystery as to these structures, and though I have my own quite firm ideas about this painting, I like it when people come up with their own personal interpretation of it, too. I think of the paintings in this series as platforms for the viewer's fantasies of mystery, perhaps danger, sometimes loss, and always exploration."

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AFTER PIRANESI/AFTER US #4  
Oil and acrylic on canvas; 36" x 48"



### HORIZON SERIES

Glass; Left H 34" W9" - Right H18" W13" D4"

## ERIK EISERLING

Eiserling was introduced to glass blowing while attending Santa Monica College. It was then that the connection between his Swedish heritage and the art of glass blowing came to light. He studied with Swedish glass masters at the Orrefors Glass Factory before returning to Oakland and the California College of the Arts. He worked with the Italian master Lino Tagliapietra at Pilchuk and the Pratt Fine Arts Center.

"Some of the finest glass masters, such as Lino Tagliapietra, have shared their knowledge with me. My goal is to share that appreciation of the art of glass blowing with the world through teaching and the creation of unique and beautifully handcrafted works."

Eiserling teaches at the California College of the Arts and exhibits his work internationally.

[www.erikeiserling.com](http://www.erikeiserling.com)



## MARK ERICKSON

"My approach to painting, or printmaking, is always an adventure. The intent is to create through the layers and crevices moments of light with colors as reflections. Drips, splatters, shapes and lines, some disappearing in white or emerging from darkness. The painting process again becomes an event. Working on multiple canvases over a period of days, some drying, others waiting for a certain final stroke or gesture, composition or balance. The focus is always the continuation of paint on canvas, the movement and texture, leading the eye to discover the hidden meaning, the pure excitement of the act of painting."

[www.markerickson.com](http://www.markerickson.com)



MYTHOLOGY OF MEMORY  
Mixed media on canvas; 15" x 15"

## ASHLEY JAMESON ERIKSMOEN

Eriksmoen began her higher education with a B.S. degree in geology. Working as a geologist in earthquake country led her to realize how important objects were to human beings and she embarked on a journey of discovery resulting in an M.F.A. in furniture design from the Rhode Island School of Design.

In creating her unique furniture, she adapts biomorphic forms and imbues her work with personality and wit: "Endowing furniture with posture is the lifeblood of my work; reappropriating biotic characteristics enables me to depict emotional territories inherent to the human condition. By presenting objects as sentient, I invite viewers to identify with and to project their own situation onto these kindred things."

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MAMMALS  
Furniture - wood, textile



## PAM FINGADO

"My paintings start with photographs. The idea of loss, illusion and memory, and how it is shaped and recorded by photography is the basis for my work. I interpret the setting and the era by studying old family photographs. Through a process of scraping and deleting, resulting images become distorted. I like to think I grasp the essence of the character either by physical stance, color, or physical analysis, but in reality, I have added personal references to these distant relatives in the hope of connecting to my past."

Fingado was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she continues to live and work today. She earned an art degree in print-making from California State University at Hayward. Today, her work incorporates both abstract and graphic qualities.

[www.pamfingado.com](http://www.pamfingado.com)



TRUCE  
Oil on canvas; 16" x 13"



## NATURAL FORM II

Date palm branches, honeysuckle vine  
26" x 14"

## NORMA ANDERSEN FOX

"For years I have been a printmaker, and I still am, but I enjoy the change of working sculpturally with baskets. I like using the lighter weight materials compared to the equipment and chemicals needed for etching and engraving. Now, I'm making intricate handles on the baskets. They appear to be almost like line drawings."

Charles Kennard states "Recently, Fox has begun to endow her work with a conscious symbolism. Basket as vessel and vessel as boat recall for her the perilous voyages her Norwegian ancestors undertook, and hint at spiritual journeys. Lovingly constructed miniature shrines as seen in Japan have inspired Fox to create pieces with a strong presence of their own, divorced from any suggestion of utility."

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## KRISTIN GUDJONSDOTTIR

Gudjonsdottir works in raw materials that are destined for the trash bin. Her main materials are glass, ceramic, and metals.

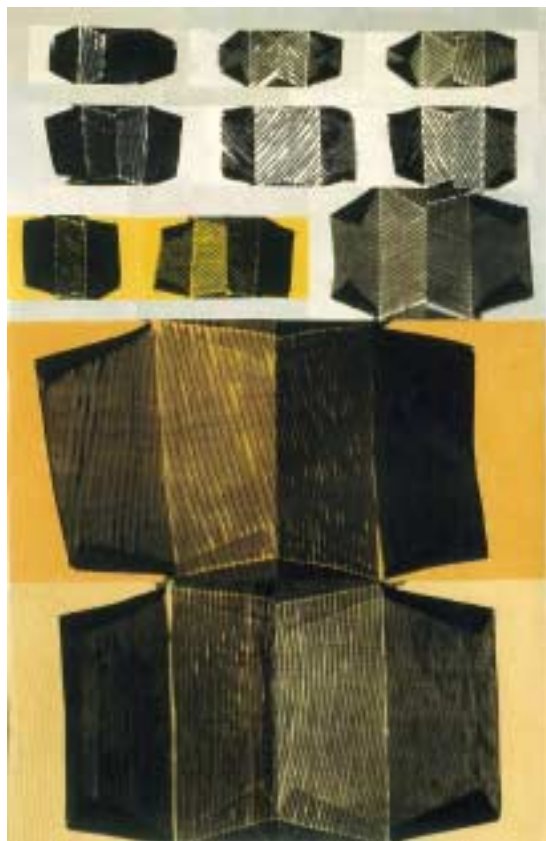
"During my art studies in California, I started to incorporate memories from my childhood in Iceland into my work. I began to make sculptures based on tools that my ancestors used in their daily life. Today, much of my work is still created from reused materials. 'Multi Cone' came as a response to moving to the East Coast from the Bay Area in 1999. Finding art in a new area with the help of the internet is represented by the cone's 'feelers'." Gudjonsdottir has had numerous exhibitions in Iceland and the United States, and her work is in public and private collections.

[www.mixedmediasculpture.com](http://www.mixedmediasculpture.com)



MULTI CONE

Marble, clay cast glass; H9" W13" D9"



## LEXICON II

Shibori resist dyed and pieced silk pique  
68" x 44"

## ANA LISA HEDSTROM

Hedstrom is a textile artist who specializes in contemporary adaptations of Japanese Shibori.

"I like the logic of Shibori. By exploiting the intrinsic pliability of cloth by stitching, folding, wrapping and tying, both patterns and textures are created. These patterns contain a kind of language. One may peruse the actual process in the dyed and embossed fabric. This conversational aspect begins as the cloth emerges from the dye and continues as I cut and piece the silk to make a larger graphic design. My work departs from a stereotypical Japanese aesthetic, but I hope to retain some of the skill and invention found in Japanese indigo dyed Shibori."

Hedstrom's textiles have been exhibited and published internationally and are in the collections of the Oakland and De Young Museums and the Museum of Art and Design in New York.

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## RUSSELL HERRMAN

"My sculptures are spare and kinetic - geometry in motion - that interact with the environment. They are animated by the wind or human touch, or sometimes both. Zen in concept, they work according to the whims of nature.

"Recently, I have focused on the 'square rigged' sails of the wooden sailing ships like the clipper ships of the San Francisco Bay's past and the Viking ship sails of my Norwegian heritage. This sculpture pays homage to both influences and to the famous Viking explorer, Leif Ericson, who discovered North America a millennium ago. The design also pays homage to artists who have influenced my artwork, like Brancusi, Arp, and Ellsworth Kelly."

[www.nordic5arts.com](http://www.nordic5arts.com)



LEIF II

Aluminum, sailcloth, gromets, attachments  
H5' W3.5' D3"





KANNA II  
Bronze; H17" W12" D6"

## MAJ-BRITT HILSTROM

The geometric shapes which appeared in Hillstrom's earliest works and continue to dominate her work today are interwoven with organic forms. They evoke abstract realities of architecture, waterfalls, mountains, landscapes, seaforms and the human figure. She includes her concern for the security of our water sources. There is no new water. The life source we are drinking today is billions of years old.

[www.maj-britthilstrom.com](http://www.maj-britthilstrom.com)



## CRYSTAL LOKKEN

"My painting, "Ice Mountain - Greenland", is, obviously, of an iceberg. The Norwegian word for it, "isberg", is literally translated as "ice mountain".

"As a painter, I am drawn to the spirit of the mountains, mostly mountains of rock. But this iceberg is also a mountain, one that contains an incredible energy.

"As I travel to islands in the North Atlantic to study Viking history, I see many mountains, some of which become subjects for my work. Using watercolor washes with overlayments of pastel, I try to capture their essence and beauty."

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ICE MOUNTAIN - GREENLAND  
Watercolor, pastel; 27" x 34" framed



SLIP-INS  
Mixed media on paper, 44" x 32"

## MARGARETHA MIGLO

"As a young dance student, I was aware at an early age of the importance of body language and facial expressions. I remember dreaming of whirling out on the dance floor in the arms of a Fred Astaire or a Gene Kelly, being airborne in exquisite high heel shoes. I was interested in what could be conveyed without words. Later, painting large images, I found that just a part of a figure was enough to create a feeling.

"Looking back, I still miss the beautiful 'torture chambers', some of them still resting on the top shelves in my closet - crying out to entice and just waiting for an opportunity to dance."

Miglo has exhibited both nationally and in her native country of Sweden. Her work is found in private and corporate collections.

[www.nordic5arts.com](http://www.nordic5arts.com)

## PERNILLA PERSSON

"Photography makes life worth living! The fire that motivates me burns to expand and search for new paths. I'm looking for the undiscovered and the hidden, creating from what I am seeing and experiencing. Reality for me is not only about what is happening around us, but also what we create of ourselves, consciously and unconsciously.

"Light creates color and shapes - it plays with our minds. The way light transfers itself onto shapes, surfaces, textures and colors fascinates me. It's like traveling in an unknown land where the process is the journey from reality and I push myself to the end. I am looking, focusing, and finding new angles. This is how the journey becomes the most important part for me and the result becomes an inquiry."

[www.pernillapersson.com](http://www.pernillapersson.com)



PURPLE STAR (Through Tears Series)  
Photography, C-print; 16" x 20"

## SUSAN PETERSON

"The work reflects my fears and concerns about human impact on the degradation of our environment. I have moved from working with abstract forms to a more explicit representation. These birds are part of what I call the 'Ecological Disaster Series'. In this dystopian world, the fragile creatures have mutated and armored themselves to survive the toxicity in which they now must live.

"Although this is a serious subject, my blending of absurd imagery helps clarify my contradictions and conflicts of living in today's world.

"Birds are one barometer of this planet's health. Despite our present dire condition, there is still hope."

[www.mudgrrl.com](http://www.mudgrrl.com)



BIRD WHEELS  
Clay, gears, wood; L2' H11" D6"

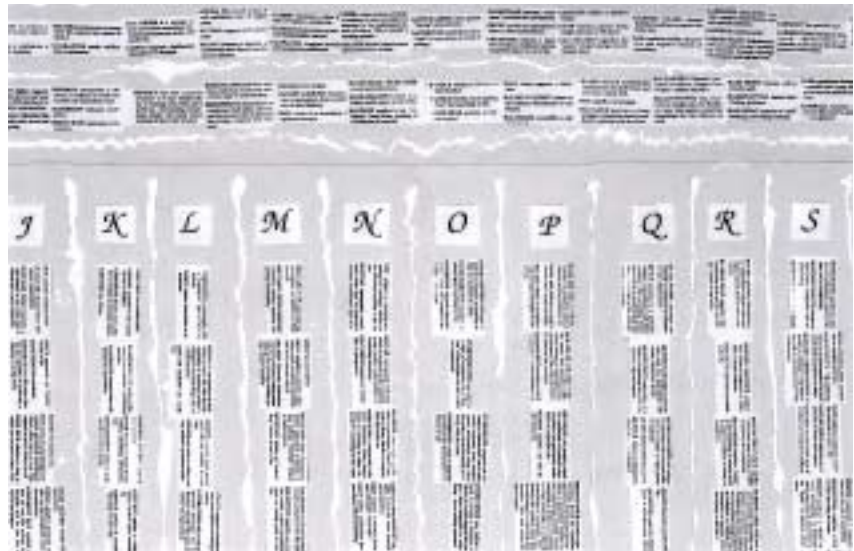
## DIANE RUSNAK

"I work primarily from night dream images. I've remembered and written over 3,000 dreams, many of which are made into artworks in a variety of media.

"This work - The Promise of Knowing - is a comment on dream dictionaries that purport to know specific meanings of dreams."

Rusnak is an East Bay artist and college art teacher.

[dreamdiane@aol.com](mailto:dreamdiane@aol.com)



THE PROMISE OF KNOWING (A Dream Dictionary - Detail)  
Paper collage, gesso/canvas; 3' x 8'





BARK SERIES XXVIII (Manzanita)  
Photography, Giclee print; 20" x 16"

## HELENE SOBOL

"Always looking for special moments and unique compositions, I want to capture a specific mood in time and place. Whether my subject is abstract or representational, colorful or monochromatic, near my home or traveling throughout the world, I enjoy recording the moment when light, form, and composition merge to create a captivating image evocative of a place, a memory, an experience, a feeling, or a desire."

Sobol's photography expresses special moments that reflect moods and feelings. Inspired by the beauty of nature since her childhood in Norway, her work often reveals details that make for painterly compositions. Her Bark Series focuses on tree bark in all its varied forms, textures, hues, and shapes - often dissolving into abstract and colorful patterns of natural beauty.

[www.HeleneSobol.com](http://www.HeleneSobol.com)



## TODD VERWERS

Located on Sea Ranch in Northern California, Petersen + Verwers Architecture designed this house as a weekend residence for the former Danish consul and his wife who desired that the house express a Nordic sensibility to light, material and finish selection, and lifestyle.

The challenge for architect Todd Verwers, graduate of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, was to accommodate the design on a tight lot and within the strict guidelines of Sea Ranch. Verwers designed the house with the living areas oriented toward the ocean seen through an unbroken window wall. Other large windows are positioned along the side and rear walls to provide views into the forest canopy behind the house, allowing the natural environment to permeate the house.

[www.petersenverwers.com](http://www.petersenverwers.com)



SEA RANCH RESIDENCE  
The Sea Ranch, California