

# Nordic 5 Arts

## Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2009

The meeting was held at Marc Ellen Hamel's home in San Francisco. Present were: Helene Sobol, Marie-Louise Ullmark, Marc Ellen Hamel, Dorothy McCall, Maj-Britt Mobrand, Pat Bengtson, Barbara Stevens Strauss, Colette Crutcher, Jason Engelund, Debra Jewell, Diane Rusnak, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Kati Casida and guests Nancy Hayes, Linda Jones and John Casida.

### **Brief update on everyone's activities of late:**

**Marie-Louise Ullmark:** Recent exhibition in Sweden, very successful. Moving to Stockholm soon.

**Dorothy Mc Call:** Travel to Boise and Seattle making contacts with art venues. Art history work.

**Marc Ellen Hamel:** Recent Open Studio: President of Shipyard Trust for the Arts, organized auction.

**Maj-Britt Mobrand:** Box art show, Pro Arts

**Pat Bengtson:** Recent show at Triton museum; donated one sculpture to their permanent collection

**Barbara Stevens Strauss:** Working on raku.

**Colette Crutcher:** Recent series of paper maché animal sculptures at Davies Hall, to be auctioned off by Mission Cultural Center in December.

**Jason Engelund:** Expectant father, planning his first trip to Denmark, 2 shows coming up.

**Diane Rusnak:** Magpie 7 Arts group show at Windows Gallery, Berkeley, and planning illustrations for a poetry book

**Debra Jewell:** Monotypes, landscapes, trip to Japan in November.

**Maj-Britt Hilstrom:** Show at Fingado Gallery (Ellen Faris and Helena Tiainen will also be in the show.) Self-published a book on her Deep Sea Series.

**Helene Sobol:** Just published a book, "Ladies of Hyde Street." Recent expedition to Svalbard, Norway, to photograph arctic wildlife and landscape.

### **Past and Upcoming Exhibitions**

Completed Exhibition: "Going North" at Contra Costa College: Well received. Many thanks to Pat Bengtson and Maj-Britt Hilstrom for their hard work, and all those who helped with the installation, dismantling, catalog, etc. Pat announced that, sadly, CCC is cutting some art classes due to funding shortage.

**Next show, September 12 – October 28, 2011:** Craft & Cultural Arts Gallery, State of California Office Building. 1515 Clay Street – Atrium, Oakland

Jason Engelund, who proposed this venue, announced that he had secured the show dates in the fall of 2011. He will organize the exhibition with help from Dorothy McCall and other members. A juror needs to be found. Signage: Can it be donated? Ask Diane Love. Will there be a catalog? All in favor, but Helene will need assistance if she is to do it. Colette suggested we think about a unifying theme to tie our work together. She gave the title "Water" as an example. Discussion followed. Is Nordic identity enough of a theme? Kati Casida said the group was formed to promote artistic excellence, and that not all the art we show needs to reference Nordic-ness. With so much lead time, can we create pieces specifically in response to a theme? Maj-Britt Hilstrom suggested films of Ingmar Bergman as a theme and this generated much interest. Marc Ellen Hamel suggested choosing lines from a Swedish poet (Tomas Tranströmer.) Suggestions for show titles were written down and it was agreed to put off a vote until the next meeting in the spring. In the meantime, we can be mulling over ideas, and perhaps update each other by email on what we are thinking.

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### **Proposed show titles:**

From the North – Contemporary Art of Nordic Heritage (working title proposed to Craft & Cultural Arts Gallery)

Water

Films of Ingmar Bergman

Planet in Crisis

Line of Poetry (Tomas Tranströmer)

Ancestral Memories

Science and Spirituality

When We Were Small: A Child's Eye View

Youth and Age

### **Other Show Venues:**

Possible show in Tacoma, WA, at Pacific Lutheran University. Nancy Hayes volunteered to follow up. The Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle is in transition at present so nothing can be organized there for a while.

**Treasurer's Report:** Account moved to Mechanics Bank, \$450, plus \$33.75 in old Bank of America account. Membership renewal forms were passed out for 2010. Dues \$20.

**Leadership:** Pam Fingado and Maj-Britt Moberg are considering sharing Helene's responsibilities as coordinator starting in the spring.

**Web Site:** New posting \$50 and update photos for a \$25 fee. Contact Helene for information.

**Next Meeting:** Diane Rusnak's home in San Pablo. Lecture by Dorothy McCall.

The meeting was followed by a delicious pot luck and Helene's slide show "Svalbard, Norway – Expedition to the Arctic." She showed her photography and shared her experiences of her voyage on the National Geographic Explorer in July, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colette Crutcher