



TACOMA **ART** MUSEUM

Annual Report

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

1701 Pacific Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98402

253.272.4258
www.TacomaArtMuseum.org

Exhibitions

Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible

The Forty Part Motet (A Reworking of Spem in
Alium Nunquam Habui 1573, by Thomas Tallis)

2008 Neddy Artist Fellowship

*Speaking Parts: Conversations
Between Works in the Collection*

*The Surrealist Impulse: New Acquisitions from the
Tacoma Art Museum Collecton*

*What is a Trade? Donald Fels and
Signboard Painters of South India*

Snowbound
(Marc Dombrosky and Shannon Eakins)

*Oasis: Western Dreams of the Ottoman Empire
from the Dahesh Museum of Art*

The 9th Northwest Biennial

David Macaulay: The Way He Works

Loud Bones: The Jewelry of Nancy Worden

*Ornament as Art: Avant-Garde Jewelry from the
Helen Williams Drutt Collection*

Jewelry Lobby Case:
New Acquisitions
Andy Cooperman

Murray Family Events Space:
Marine Images,
American Icons
Kenneth Callahan murals
Mexican Prints
Fay Jones



The museum began the summer and new fiscal year with a dramatic and dynamic pairing of exhibitions, presenting the *St. John's Bible* project with Janet Cardiff's sound installation, *Forty Part Motet*. The hand-written, illuminated manuscript exhibition was complimented by the visually stark but acoustically rich contemporary sound piece, which proved to be extremely popular and memorable for audiences of all ages. *Oasis: Western Dreams of the Ottoman Empire* was the fall traveling exhibition from the Dahesh Museum in New York. It was matched with another Dahesh show that was presented at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle. The strong signboard paintings by Northwest artist Don Fels explored issues of trade and East-West influence. Many Northwest artists were featured in several exhibitions throughout the year, from the *9th Northwest Biennial* and the 2009 Neddy to the December sweater installation by Tacoma artists Marc Dombrosky and Shannon Eakins. The museum collection was featured using innovative themes, such as surrealist tendencies in recent acquisitions and conversational units in *Speaking Parts*. The dark, winter months were enlivened by David Macaulay's images of soaring buildings, waving skeletons, and perplexed mammoths. The summer months showcased studio art jewelry with the pairing of Helen Drutt's spectacular collection and the deeply personal narrative jewelry of Seattle artist, Nancy Worden. Other unusual display areas such as the Lobby Case, Murray Family Events Space, and the museum's interior courtyard served as experimental laboratories for works by Northwest artists.



Acquisitions

The museum's collection grew by 78 works from 45 donors this past year, 85 percent of which were by Northwest artists. Several of the paintings, works on paper, sculptures, glass, photographs, and installations were immediately featured in the museum's exhibitions. Significant pieces included two bird drawings by Northwest master Morris Graves (donated by Honorary Trustee Esther Grant), *Hibernation* from 1954 (a gift of John and Diahann Braseth in honor of Susan Russell Hall and Dr. Dale Hall for their dedication to Northwest visual arts); Whiting Tennis's *Blue Tarp* from the 2007 *Neddy Artist Fellowship* (a museum purchase in honor of Shari and John Behnke with funds from numerous supports); Salvador Dali's *The Song of Songs of King Solomon* from 1971 (a gift of Ann and James Wiborg); and Verena Sieber-Fuch's *Drug Addiction* (a necklace she created in 1992 from medication blister packs, which featured in the museum's exhibition *Sparkle Then Fade* and donated to the museum by Nancy Worden).

Attendance

In response to the strong interest in the summer exhibitions, the museum was open every Monday in July and August to accommodate group tours. Special member previews were also offered. Attendance for the year reached 74,242.



Events

The free community festivals continued to grow in popularity and creativity with the *Dia de los Muertos* event, celebrating its fifth year in partnership with Centro Latino, and a special "big draw" event, created around the visit of artist David Macaulay. In May, the museum marked its fifth anniversary of its spectacular Antoine Predock-designed building with a community festival and an invitation for artists to create birthday cakes out of any material of their choosing. The museum's premiere fundraising event, The Night Tacoma Danced, was renamed The Tacoma Art Museum Gala. The revitalized, time-honored event included the sale of works by select Northwest artists, a live auction for museum-quality artwork and exceptional travel experiences. The Alice in Wonderland themed event, chaired by Tacoma Art Museum Activities Council President, Carol Rhodes, drew in 340 attendees and raised \$225,000.





Programs

More than half of all visitors—about 42,000—participated in an education program, and 8,638 were school-age visitors in the school tour program. An especially popular school tour theme was the fourth annual *Día de los Muertos*. The event drew hundreds of students, as well as 2,402 visitors to the free community festival on the final weekend in November. In the spring, the museum offered visitors a hands-on opportunity to understand David Macaulay's drawing process via an interactive perspective-drawing station set within the exhibition *David Macaulay: The Way He Works*. Almost 900 people attended a free community festival called The Big Draw, celebrating Macaulay's work, which included a chance to meet the artist at his book-signing.

Earlier in the year, the moving exhibition *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible* brought in a record number of group tours. Hands-on interpretive materials in the gallery allowed visitors to feel real vellum and quills, while guest artists provided expert calligraphy instruction in the Open Art Studio. Visitors heard about illuminated manuscripts first-hand from Vashon Island resident Suzanne Morre, who lectured about her role as a Saint John's Bible artist.

Alan Liddle

1922–2009
Lifetime Trustee,
Tacoma Art Museum



Alan Liddle died peacefully at home on Sunday, May 17, 2009. Born in Tacoma, Alan was a distinguished Northwest modernist architect, a designer of notable residential and institutional projects, and an ardent preservationist. He was an extraordinary Trustee and supporter of Tacoma Art Museum. He played a pivotal role as knowledgeable advisor and passionate advocate, beginning with the museum's evolution out of the former Tacoma Art League, through the various moves to temporary downtown locations, and finally to the new facility designed by Antoine Predock.

His unselfish love of and devotion to Tacoma Art Museum resulted in his gifting his entire estate to the museum. Alan championed architecture, design, and aesthetics in Tacoma, and he will be a greatly missed member of the museum family and community.

Treasurer's Letter

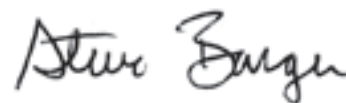
Tacoma Art Museum's financial results were mixed in the 2009 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2009. On the positive side, the museum benefited from record contributed income that totaled \$4,600,188 thanks to individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and members. This compares favorably to the previous year's contributed income of \$2,479,026. This charitable giving speaks to the incredible generosity of those who understand the importance of our core mission—connecting people through art. Because of such strong support, the museum enriches the lives of visitors of all ages, including regional artists, devoted teachers, noted scholars, and diverse families.

The museum experienced negative investment returns of \$2,048,057 due to stock market declines in the 2009 fiscal year, compared to a \$498,303 gain the previous year. This negatively impacted the financials, resulting in a decrease in net assets of \$1,302,813. The independent audit firm of Brantley Janson Yost & Ellison, which issued the

audit, reported no findings resulting from the examination of the financial results. The museum once again received a clean audit report.

Excluding investment/financing activities and restricted contributions, the Tacoma Art Museum fell short of a ninth consecutive year of balanced operating budgets, recording a \$184,985 deficit. The Board of Trustees, with their strong fiduciary oversight, and the leadership and dedication of museum staff, deserve recognition for their hard work during this challenging time.

We are most grateful to you, our dedicated members and supporters, for providing the critical support that enables the museum to fulfill its mission.



Steve Barger
Treasurer, Board of Trustees

CONTRIBUTED AND EARNED INCOME

Contributed Income

Individual (includes in-kind)	\$3,786,289
Corporate	240,721
Foundation	383,897
Government Grants & Revenue	58,415
Memberships	130,872
Total Contributed Income	\$4,600,188

Earned Income

Endowment & Interest Income	(\$2,048,057)
Admissions/Tours	205,444
Museum Store	294,432
Ancillary Services*	685,355
Total Earned Income	(\$862,826)

TOTAL INCOME **\$3,737,362**

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Exhibitions & Education	\$2,318,763
Supporting Services	542,166
Membership	145,393
Fundraising	475,677
Ancillary Services**	1,558,176
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,040,176

**NET INCOME/-LOSS
AFTER EXPENSES** **(\$1,302,813)**

* Income from Ancillary Services comes from after-hours events, parking, educational programs, special events, and other income sources.

** Expenses categorized as Ancillary Services include those related to investments, financing, and depreciation, the Museum Store, facilities, after-hours events, the Gala, art acquisitions, and other expenses.

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Page 1. *The 9th Northwest Biennial* opening, January 2009 Photo by Jim McJunkins, TPNW.

Page 2. *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible* member's opening celebration. Photo: Christopher Hunt.

Page 3, left. Morris Graves, *Hibernation*, 1954. Tempera on paper, 18 ½ × 25 ½ inches. Gift of John and Diahann Braseth in honor of Susan Russell Hall and Dr. Dale Hall for their dedication to visual arts in the Northwest.

Page 3, right. 2008 Activities Council President Carol Rhodes: Alice (Dolly L.); the Queen of Hearts (Kristie Worthey, Associate Director of Museum Services); and Board President Brett Willis pictured at The Tacoma Art Museum Gala.

Page 4, top. Installation of *David Macaulay: The Way He Works* exhibition. Photo: Richard Rangel.

Page 4. Courtesy of Alan Liddle.

*Page 8. This is a list of full or part-time employees who worked at Tacoma Art Museum between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.