

**Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University  
Friends Annual Meeting  
April 22, 2007**

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

Mindy Solie called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last year's meeting. Guy Solie moved to approve the minutes. There was a second, and members voted to approve the minutes.

President's Report

Solie welcomed and recognized past presidents and board members. She thanked them for their leadership and for their time and efforts on behalf of the museum.

Solie reminded members that the purpose of the Friends of the Nasher Museum of Art is to support and further the museum's mission. During the past year, the Friends worked to increase the membership and support the membership with opportunities to view art of the highest quality, enjoy educational programming, engage Young Members, enhance benefits for all members, and strengthen the ties to the community.

Membership to date is at 1225 with 153 Brummer households. Annual Fund donors number 449. The Nasher is still the "in" place on campus, with over 1300 students attending the recent Nashquerade event on April 13. The museum is a treasure for the entire community, from school children to retirees.

Solie noted that membership is down compared to last year. A direct mail campaign is planned for later this spring with the goal of adding 200-300 new members by the end of the fiscal year. Membership revenue remains strong. The museum will have a new fulltime membership manager later this month. Solie thanked Rebecca Swartz and Alicia Emr for filling in so ably.

This past year the Friends Board launched five task forces which met to discuss and explore membership retention and development, the feasibility of a fundraising event, corporate partnerships, community outreach and member travel opportunities. Thanks to Carol O'Brien, Peg Palmer, Jim Sink, Ruth Dzau and Nick Gillham for their leadership of these task forces. These groups work to advocate on behalf of the membership, develop partnerships and collaborations and explore and develop future member opportunities.

Solie thanked the membership for giving her the opportunity to serve as president for the past two years.

## Director's Report and Remembrance of Raymond Nasher

Kimerly Rorschach welcomed the crowd and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Rorschach spoke about Raymond Nasher, namesake and founder of the Nasher Museum of Art. She said that her immediate feeling upon learning of his death was that it was hard to believe that he was gone, and there was still so much to do. He had been at the Nasher only a few weeks before his death to introduce Thomas Krens for the Semans Lecture.

Raymond Nasher, a leading collector of contemporary and modern sculpture, graduated from Duke in 1943. He served as a member of the Duke University Board of Trustees from 1968-1974, when he became trustee emeritus. He and his daughter Nancy took on the project of building the museum, which opened in October of 2005 with a loan of works from his collection. He served as a member of the museum's Board of Advisors. Nancy Nasher's husband, David Haemisegger will replace him on the board.

A brief video tribute to Raymond Nasher was shown to the members. This tribute can be found on the Nasher's website <<http://www.nasher.duke.edu/>>. Rorschach commented that Ray loved to see the museum alive with people using it, and he knew the Friends were supportive of these programs, and thanked them for their involvement.

Rorschach said that the museum wants to bring new and interesting things to our audiences and commented that it has been a great year for exhibitions of contemporary art. Eve Sussman's *Rape of the Sabine Women*, which was shown first at the Nasher, has recently received international attention. The contemporary Chinese photography exhibition, *Between Past and Future*, was well-received and much used in teaching. *Street Level* highlights the work of three young artists, Mark Bradford, William Cordova, and Robin Rhode, who have recently emerged onto the world scene. There has been a lot of positive response from younger audiences and school children. Cordova also participated in a public art project in downtown Durham. Also currently on view are the collages of Irwin Kremen.

The museum is working on the exhibition, *El Greco to Velazquez: Art during the Reign of Philip III*, which will be here August 21 – November 9, 2008. We are expecting it to be a blockbuster show that will provide great opportunity for growth and member opportunities.

Rorschach recognized Friends Board members whose terms are ending this year. Rorschach thanked Mindy Solie as the outgoing president for all her hard work, as well as Kathy Lewis, the nominating committee chair, who is moving away. She also thanked the members for their support which makes the work of the museum possible.

Before introducing Blake Byrne, Chairman of the Nasher Board of Advisors, Rorschach recognized Byrne for his promised gift to the museum which has doubled the museum's collection of contemporary art. Byrne made the gift on the occasion of his 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion and in honor of Raymond Nasher.

#### Board of Advisors Report

Byrne said it was a pleasure to attend the annual Friends meeting and to thank members for their support and their amazing amount of volunteer hours, which are essential to the museum. Byrne spoke briefly about Raymond Nasher. He said he never thought about Ray leaving, but will continue Ray's vision in his memory. Byrne said this museum has changed the campus and university and the region. It will be a leader in the arts in the U.S. with *El Greco*, and *Street Level* is as good a show as you will see anywhere in the U.S. The museum is lucky to have Rorschach, the curatorial staff and the administrative staff, but without the help of the Friends, their jobs wouldn't be possible. Byrne noted that the university has done an extraordinary job in its support of the museum. The Nasher will be a focal point of Central Campus and will be the center of education and learning.

Byrne thanked the membership again for its support and thanked Mindy Solie for her enthusiastic leadership.

#### Nominating Report

Kathy Lewis presented the nominating committee report. She thanked the members of the committee – Nancy Dougherty, Richard Hawkins, Peg Palmer, Jim Sink and Angela Terry – for their work. Their goal was to have a diverse, well-balanced board.

The nominations for new officers are:

Peg Palmer, President – two-year term

Marilyn Arthur, Vice President – one-year term

Ruth Dzau – Secretary – one-year term

The nominations for new members with terms ending in 2010 are: Ann Craver, Larry Hines, John Marlowe III, Humberto Mercado, A. Courtney Shives, Jr. and Ann Whitehurst.

Lewis asked for a motion to approve the slate of new officers and new members. There was a second, and members voted to approve the new officers and members.

#### Welcome from Incoming President

Solie introduced incoming president Peg Palmer as a dedicated supporter of the Nasher and a tireless volunteer for the community.

Palmer said she was honored to succeed Solie as President of the Friends Board. She said DUMA had been a wonderful and welcoming place, and the Nasher has continued its tradition. Ellen Stark and Mindy Solie have set a high standard for the

Friends Board of the Nasher. Palmer indicated she is looking forward to serving as president.

### Education Report

Solie introduced Juline Chevalier, Curator of Education, who has launched a comprehensive community outreach education program, including the training of community docents, hosting family days, organizing workshops for teachers, tours for school children, training student docents, and serving as advisor to the Nasher Student Advisory Board.

Chevalier presented a slide show while giving an overview of the Education Department. The Education Department is staffed by Chevalier and Lisa Charde, Associate Curator of Education. Chevalier said their role was to enrich the lives of the community. They follow closely the goals of the American Association of Museums report on the educational role of museums, *Excellence and Equity: Education and the Public Dimension of Museums*. Chevalier said the docents are a key component to the education program. She thanked all docents, board members, and staff who contribute to the education function of the museum.

K-12 Guided Tours – School children who tour the museum with their class receive free admission. Admission is always free for children under 16 years of age. Teachers are mailed pre-visit activities. The education staff takes special care to make connections to North Carolina curriculum. The students are offered an optional hands-on art activity following their tour and are also provided with post-visit activities for use in the classroom. Students are given a return visit card for a free visit with their families. Chevalier thanked Guy and Mindy Solie for their support of the museum's K-12 programs.

The Education Department has given 200 school tours for approximately 4300 children, which is approximately 2000 students a year as compared to approximately 600 students a year at the old museum. The Education Department targets public schools in Durham and in particular the Neighborhood Partner schools (E.K. Powe Elementary, Forest View Elementary, Morehead Montessori Magnet Elementary, George Watt Montessori Magnet Elementary, Rogers-Herr Year-Round Middle and Durham School of the Arts). Education brochures are produced twice a year and sent to all Durham public schools. The Education Department also works with Mary Casey, the Arts Coordinator for the Durham Public Schools. Teacher workshops are presented each academic semester and focus on the museum's temporary exhibitions. The Education Department has collaborated with other departments at Duke on teacher workshops and is planning an upcoming workshop with Duke Gardens. Teachers receive education units for attending the workshops. A Teacher Advisory Council has been formed to help advise the education staff.

Thanks to a gift from Nancy and Dennis Dougherty, the Education Department will continue to offer its successful bus scholarship program. The museum has funded 15

buses since October 2006 allowing over 600 students to come to the museum who would not have been able to do so otherwise.

Family Days are held approximately every other month on a Sunday, and involve active participation by visitors. Family Days target children ages 4-13 years old, with the age of the majority of children being 4-8 years old. UBS Financial Services has provided underwriting for free admission for all visitors on the Family Days this April and the upcoming one in June. Last year there were approximately 2000 total visitors for Family Days programs. This year has already seen 2700 visitors on these days.

Chevalier included a special thank you to the docents. There are 35 community docents and 15 student docents. She also thanked Cecil and Suzanne Godwin for contributions to honor one docent each year with a seat in the auditorium. The first honoree is Janie Wharton. Chevalier is working to recruit a more diverse group for the next class of docents to better reflect the community.

Chevalier spoke about the Nasher Student Advisory Board, which is an amazing group of undergraduate and graduate students. These students reach out to other students to engage them in the museum. The NSAB has held two large parties, one in the fall and one in the spring, which have become a model for responsible socializing on campus. Their most recent event, Nashquerade, had approximately 1300 students in attendance. The NSAB also sponsors Art for All events on the third Thursday of most months. These are programmed by the students for the students, but the community is welcome. The events involve a gallery talk by a professor or student, entertainment and light refreshments.

Solie thanked Chevalier for making all these wonderful things happen at the Nasher.

Solie also recognized the Friends Board members who are rotating off the board: Nicholas Gillham, Suma Jones, Nancy Tuttle May, Carol O'Brien, Andrew Rothschild, Jim Sink, Mindy Solie, and Ronna Zimmer.

There was no other business and members were invited to the atrium to enjoy refreshments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.