



# FRIENDS OF ETHNIC ART

P.O. Box 192430 ~ San Francisco, California 94119-2430

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FEA Newsletter

August 2010

## FRIENDS OF ETHNIC ART

### Annual Party & Auction

Sunday, September 12, 2010 – 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Art, Food, and Fashion of Tribal Asia

#### *Enjoy:*

- ! A large and eclectic collection housed in an architectural masterpiece designed by Julia Morgan.
- ! Wines chosen by our Board's resident wine pro.
- ! Tribal Burmese cuisine. Gooney desserts.
- ! Conversation and camaraderie with more than 100 friends.
- ! A most targeted, concise Annual Meeting.
- ! An exciting auction of ethnic art objects donated by members: masks, statues, jewelry, textiles, pottery, weapons, art books, baskets, bowls, magic figures, costumes, shields, services, vessels, wood carvings, metalwork, and more.
- ! Wearing your festive ethnic clothing and jewelry is encouraged – when better?

## RESERVE NOW!

#### *The plan:*

- 11:00: Check In, Drinks, Hors D'oeuvres  
Preview Silent Auction  
Sign up for one of the House Tours
- 12:30: Lunch of catered Burmese delicacies  
Silent Auction (Part I) Cut-off
- 12:50: Silent Auction (Part 2) Cut-off
- 1:20: Silent Auction (Part 3) Cut-off
- 1:30: Annual Meeting
- 1:45: **Live Auction Begins**
- 4:00: Depart

**Note:** from 11:00 to 1:20 you have time to preview the auction items, bid on Silent Auction objects, and purchase some at a "Buy Now" price.

# Come along!

Celebrate Indian Summer 2010 with 100+ Friends of Ethnic Art and guests at our grandest traditional event: the FEA Annual Party & Auction. This is an ideal opportunity and venue to invite your friends, relatives, art aficionados, and any potential members. The nominal fee of \$35 per person partially covers the cost of the food and drinks.

We start at 11 a.m. Check in at the registration table and then sample the wines, beers and cold drinks and the succulent tribal Asian hors d'oeuvres. Tour the spectacular house and the homeowner's renowned collections.

Lunch, with several authentic tribal Asian specialties, including vegetarian, will be served starting at 12:30 p.m., and we'll sit outdoors at shaded tables. (Because we'll be mostly outdoors, we recommend you bring a sun hat, insect repellent, and a sweater.) Desserts will be accompanied by coffee and tea.

Between 11 a.m. and 1:20 p.m., you have the opportunity to preview the selection of art objects up for sale at the Auction. This year some objects will have "Buy Now" prices marked on their form sheets. If you see something you want at a Buy Now marked price you're content with, you can snatch it up, sign the form under the Buy Now Price, and take it to the Buy Now table to formalize the deal and have it put aside on your tab. Your preemptive strike assures you the piece and the price and takes away the gamble of losing the piece or watching its price soar at the live auction.

At 1:30 p.m., FEA President Jo Floyd will chair the Annual Meeting required by our bylaws and nonprofit-status tax laws. She promises it will be brief.

About 1:45 p.m. Dave DeRoche will start the exciting, entertaining, extensive-but-inexpensive Annual Auction of tribal and ethnic art objects donated by FEA members and other friends. Our collectors and dealers have always found this auction to be a great opportunity to both donate and purchase.

***To join us: Fill out the registration below and mail it with a check for \$35 per person. Space is limited.***



**Mail to:** Jo Floyd, 848 Page Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Jo will email you (best, if possible) or post mail you a confirmation and driving directions with transit information. See you there!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed for party entrance (\$35 per person).

Prefer confirmation by (check one) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ post

Want to plan ahead? Here are approximate driving times:

From San Jose - 1.5 hours

From San Francisco - 1 hour

From Oakland - 30 minutes

Or you could take the ferry from San Francisco to Vallejo and make a day of it!

## PLEASE NOTE:

- ☛ Donations of art objects for the fund-raising auction are now being accepted.
- ☛ Donation drop-off locations and contacts are listed below.
- ☛ Pick-ups can also be arranged, especially for multiple or valuable donations, so don't hesitate to contact someone on this list.

## DONATE NOW!

### **OUR ANNUAL AUCTION KEEPS FRIENDS OF ETHNIC ART GOING AND GROWING**

You know the great things that Friends of Ethnic Art does with the funds it raises: slide lectures by scholars who are tops in their field, visits to collections, stimulating seminars, educational grants, charitable contributions, co-sponsorship of museum events and publications, and more.

This organization has done more to advance the recognition, study, and love of ethnic art than any other membership society of its type in the world. How? Dedicated volunteers are half the answer. The other half is fund-raising through the art objects you donate. They bankroll our good deeds. When generous donors give especially nice objects to the annual auction, our members and guests know, appreciate, and bid enthusiastically.

And it's time to support FEA by donating to its annual fund-raising auction September 12. Look at it this way: give to get. By donating to our annual Tribal Art Auction, you give something you've enjoyed and honored in your home. By making room for something new, you can bid on – and take home – a beautiful new art object. You don't need to be embarrassed if you get it for a bargain price – after all, you donated a good object that someone else is happily hauling home.

Donations can be one item or many, big or small. Each year, many fine small objects draw an enthusiastic response from bidders. Good ethnic jewelry and art books, for example, certainly have their fans. Few go home empty-handed.

Because you want to buy a good piece – for your collection, for your home, for a gift, for profitable resale, you want to give a good piece – for your pride, for a tax deduction, for programs, events, and the good works of the Friends of Ethnic Art.

Bidders will be there – this is a highly anticipated and popular event. Strong donations have already started flowing in.

This year the FEA Auction will include some objects marked Buy Now, offering attendees a chance to pay a set price immediately for a must-have treasure rather than gamble on possibly losing it or paying a higher hammer price in live bidding.

We are grateful that the following volunteers are standing by to receive your donations. They will even pick them up at your home or office. You may call or email any of the following:

**East Bay, and shipments:** Dave DeRoche, [dave@galleryderoche.com](mailto:dave@galleryderoche.com), (510) 654-0400

**Marin & Sonoma:** Erik Farrow, [farrow@eriksedge.com](mailto:farrow@eriksedge.com), (415) 717-5588

**San Francisco city or nearby:** Jim Haas and/or Ingmars Lindbergs, (415) 503-3294 or (415) 503-3393.  
Phone first to drop off at Bonhams & Butterfields.

**Peninsula & South Bay:** Marsden Blois, [mblois@juno.com](mailto:mblois@juno.com), (408) 286-9700

**East Bay & Contra Costa County:** Scott McCue, [scottmccue@aol.com](mailto:scottmccue@aol.com), (925) 253-1719

**North Bay & Napa/Sonoma:** Jim Weber, [hjweber@mpsf.com](mailto:hjweber@mpsf.com), (707) 933-1575

## Your Art Donations Can Be Picked Up Now!

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR ORGANIZATION!

## Tribal Asian Art Translated into Tribal Asian Food

The category of “tribal Asian art” is actually a fairly new one – until a few decades ago classical styles of Asian art so dominated scholarship and perceptions that “primitive” styles hardly merited a footnote. But how did these styles survive so long, in light of the very early rise of major Indic and Sinic classical civilizations and arts, even into the 20<sup>th</sup> century in so many cases?

One reason is the geographical isolation of Asian tribal peoples, usually in mountainous and densely forested regions of both mainland and SE Asian islands. In this way contact was tempered by relative isolation as classical kingdoms and empires arose along fertile river valleys. Another is their sheer tenacity in maintaining beliefs – and art-forms – handed down from a long line of revered ancestors. These peoples stubbornly resisted assimilation into mainstream, lowlander culture – even while trade and other contacts are known to extend over many centuries. And so Himalayan mountain groups, Siberian nomads, Chinese “minorities,” Southeast Asian hill tribes, and dozens of Indonesian and Philippine island peoples, among others, all survived with relatively intact cultures into recent times, along with their arts...and wonderful rustic food traditions.

At this party Burmese food is featured. The roots of this cuisine, just as with the arts, are both ancient and complex, having a wide range of spices, textures and flavors. While one can't point to specific “tribal” components to the dishes, it's a safe guess that several of the important spices in today's feast were first found and used by one of the many tribal groups of that region. Enjoy!  
—by John Barker

## Friends of Ethnic Art Presents

...On **OCTOBER 30, 2010**, in conjunction with the forthcoming de Young Museum exhibit, **Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico**, opening in February 2011:

### **The 2010 Elizabeth and Lewis K. Land Memorial Lecture**

### **“Go to the Mountain and Bring Back My Boulder”**

### **How Olmec Rulers Acquired Stone for Their Colossal Heads**

By Richard A. Diehl, Ph. D., Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama

Saturday, October 30, 2010 – 10 a.m. (Free admission)

Koret Auditorium, de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

“The Olmecs who lived in southern Mexico 3,000 years ago are famous for their large stone sculptures, especially the gigantic portraits of rulers known as Colossal Heads. Many questions surround the creation and meanings of these monuments but none are more intriguing than how the Olmecs managed to move the stone boulders on which they were carved, some weighing more than 20 tons, over the many miles of swamps, jungles, hills and rivers that separate their quarry sources from their final destinations at San Lorenzo and La Venta.

“My presentation will examine how the Olmecs – who lacked large domestic animals, wheels and other sophisticated mechanical devices – accomplished this feat, not just once, but many times during the course of their history. Combining archaeological evidence with insights drawn from other ancient civilizations as well as modern experiments in other parts of the world, I outline some of the technological and, above all else, social solutions the Olmecs must have employed in order to achieve tasks of a magnitude never previously attempted in the ancient Americas.”

*Richard A. Diehl received his Doctorate degree in Anthropology from Penn State University in 1969. Diehl is a Mesoamerican archaeologist specializing in pre-Columbian cultures of central Mexico. His research also included the Olmec culture of the tropical lowlands of the Mexican Gulf Coast. He has done research at San Lorenzo Tenochtitlan, Tula, Kaminaljuyu, and Metacapan. Among his numerous publications are the highly regarded books: In the Land of the Olmec (co-authored with Michael D. Coe); Tula: The Toltec Capitol of Ancient Mexico; and The Olmec: America's First Civilization.*



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