

San Francisco Auxiliary of the Fine Arts Museums

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

Less Than Two Months to the 40th Anniversary of Bouquets to Art!



We are pleased to announce that the 2024 Bouquets to Art Truss will be designed by Amanda Luu of [Studio Mondine](#). Studio Mondine is a floral design studio based in San Francisco, California. They are a team of designers, producers, and educators united by an insatiable curiosity of the natural world. As a design studio with a diversity of experiences in hospitality, fine art, production, and fabrication, they endeavor to surprise, delight, and invite you into the splendor of the natural world.

Using the poster artwork Martin Johnson Heade's Orchid and Hummingbird as inspiration, and Yoko Ono's piece, Ceiling Painting/Yes Painting, the installation in the artist's words "endeavors to bring a singular moment into focus." We are envisioning a single live orchid plant that connects to a monumental fabricated root system. Working at a fantastical scale with the dramatized root system, we are emphasizing the tremendous labor and effort to produce a single flower. We're excited to spotlight the essential and often overlooked portion of the plant, bringing it into celebrated display. The roots bring a quiet power to the visual strength of a single blooming flower. More about the concept can be found in the artist's [proposal](#).

Important Information from our Patron/ Opening Night Committee

Bouquets to Art is almost here and we are looking forward to a fabulous Opening Night celebration the evening of Monday, June 3. The greatest portion of our revenue comes from Opening Night, and we are extremely pleased to report that Opening Night Patron level table sales are doing very well, and that we are well on our way to making our revenue goal. Sunflower level tables are sold out, with only a limited number of Peony level tables remaining. This year, many of our members took advantage of joining together to share the price of a Patron level table, boosting table sales.

Our next step is to sell individual tickets (Dahlia level) to Opening Night. Beginning Wednesday, April 24, individual tickets will be offered to our members and the members of the suburban auxiliaries at the price of \$400. This includes entry to Opening Night at 6:30pm and free parking. These specially priced tickets will be available for purchase on the BTA website: <https://www.famsf.org/events/bouquets-to-art-opening-night-2024>, for two weeks. Beginning May 8, individual ticket sales will be offered to the public, and the price of individual tickets will be increased to \$500. Please remember that one of the requirements of membership is to purchase a ticket to Opening Night. If you have not had the opportunity to secure a ticket and are interested in purchasing a single-entry ticket, we encourage you to take advantage of this reduced price.

We are finalizing our Opening Night Invitation which will be mailed as close to the end of April as possible.

The support of our membership has been terrific. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone at Opening Night to celebrate our 40th Anniversary!

Any questions, please contact Patron/Opening Night Co-Chairs Pat Hart (pathart87@comcast.net), Marianne Steer (msteer@mac.com), or Kalla Vieaux (kallavieaux@hotmail.com).



Please join us on Tuesday, May 21 at 11:30 am, Presidio Golf and Concordia Club, for our festive annual luncheon as we celebrate 40 years of Bouquets to Art. You will enjoy a delicious, hot, plated 3-course meal, 270-degree views of the Presidio golf course and San Francisco cityscape, and free parking. Kindly respond by May 1.

SAN FRANCISCO AUXILIARY OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS MEMBER NEWSLETTER

BTA Staffing Shifts

Bouquets to Art 2024 is about to blossom! The BTA Committees have been hard at work preparing for our fabulous annual fundraiser, which kicks off Monday, June 3, 2024. We need all hands on deck to make BTA 2024 a rousing success. This is a plea for help to cover volunteer shifts during BTA week, especially raffle shifts. We can't do it without you! All of the available shifts have something to offer including the opportunity to have a new learning experience, network with other volunteers, and interact with the public. A brief description of the available volunteer opportunities follows:

- Finance Volunteers: Assist other teams who conduct onsite ticket sales, such as Raffle, Programs, Program Raffle, and Flower Cart. Volunteers are required to count the cash, train on and troubleshoot handheld technology, complete basic cash and credit card accounting entries, and maintain custody of raffle tickets and cash.
 - Floral Cart Volunteers: Support the Floral Cart Chair by setting up and staffing the floral cart for sales of floral bouquets and centerpieces. Sales will be cash and credit card. Shifts may require carrying bulky boxes of flowers, light lifting of buckets with flower product, watering, and ensuring the cart and immediate surrounding areas are maintained in a dry and safe condition. Volunteers will also greet and direct guests as needed.
 - Program Ushers: Work in the Koret Auditorium during floral lectures. Volunteers seat guests, sell program raffle tickets, and assist with the raffle drawing after the program. Note: These volunteers are required to purchase a ticket to the lecture and may work only ONE program during the week of BTA.
 - Raffle Ambassadors: Engage with our guests. They greet guests, offer information about the raffle, provide general information about the museum, sell raffle tickets, and might be stationed at a popular photo op to assist visitors with taking pictures via the guest's personal cell/camera. They will be trained in the specifics of the event and museum.
 - Staffing Volunteers: Assist in the Staffing Room. They check-in volunteers arriving for their shifts and make sure each volunteer has an apron and name tag and knows where to report for their shift. Staffing volunteers may be assigned to alternate volunteer positions if and as the need arises during their staffing shift.
- Signup.com is LIVE NOW and can be accessed using the following link: <https://signup.com/go/TZSYGht>.

Volunteering for a BTA shift gives each of us the opportunity to be a part of this much beloved San Francisco event while raising funds to support the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Remember, all active members are asked to sign-up for three shifts, one of which is a raffle shift. We hope our sustaining members and the members of the museum's suburban auxiliaries will participate as much as possible.

Questions? Can't sign-up for the recommended number of shifts? Please contact BTA Staffing Chair Leticia Martinez at msleticiamz@gmail.com. For your reference, a copy of the directions for Signup.com can be found by following this [link](#).

A Message From Our President...

It's hard to believe that Bouquets to Art 2024 is less than two months away. As we head into the final stretch, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the Auxiliary for your support. I understand all too well the time and hard work that is involved in organizing the annual BTA. I cannot thank you enough for your contributions whether you are participating on a committee, working shifts, running the raffle, soliciting corporate sponsors, working with the floral exhibitors, or simply investing in attending the spectacular Opening Night and Programs. You all are champions of this beloved week-long event, and your collective efforts raise funds that support important initiatives at the Fine Arts Museums, including exhibitions, conservation, and education. I also want to recognize our Museum liaisons: Kate Hanley, Assistant Manager of Special Events, and Amy Zimardi, Associate Director of Special Events, who have been wonderful partners, providing guidance, advice, and support every step of the way.

As we head into the week of BTA (June 3-9), I also wanted to thank everyone in the Auxiliary in advance for being an Ambassador of the Auxiliary and the Fine Arts Museums. It's our privilege to share the joy of art and flowers with everyone who walks through the de Young's doors. Thank you for greeting each visitor with the warmth and enthusiasm we all feel about this special week. Together, we will create and execute an unforgettable week celebrating 40 years of Bouquets to Art.

-Nina Ward



We are thrilled to feature 125 exhibitors in the 40th Anniversary. More details regarding demographics and years of participation will be shared at our April General Meeting, but the committee wanted to share some sneak peeks.

We had a very successful return rate of 96% of exhibitors from last year. Four exhibitors will also be celebrating their 40th anniversary. Sixteen exhibitors will be making their Bouquets to Art debut, including a past Floral Fashions participant and members of the FAMSF, SF MOMA, and Asian Art Museum Flower Committees.

BTA PROGRAMS 2024

We are excited to announce our three Program speakers for BTA 2024! Cost for each program is \$65 and includes entry to BTA as well as entry to the special exhibitions Fashioning SF and Irving Penn. All tickets will be available to museum members on April 24 and to the general public on May 8.

On Tuesday, June 4 at 2pm:
Noah Harders

Noah is a Hawaiian artist who creates wearable art made of flowers, leaves, and other found organic materials. More information on this program's topic will be announced prior to April 24.



Wednesday, June 5th at 2pm:
Raul Dueñas

Raul, born in Jalisco, Mexico, immigrated to the United States at 18 years old. His experience grew from grassroots experience in the restaurant and floral industries, to co-founding a business in the events industry while working part-time at the San Francisco Flower Market. In 2016 he launched his venture as a Floral and Event Designer, and also joined a prestigious floral design company. His involvement with the SF Flower Market opened doors to design projects as well as presentations through various garden clubs in the Bay Area. In 2023, Dueñas was invited to exhibit at BTA



for the first time. He currently creates spectacular floral installations for clients in both the United States and Mexico.

Dueñas' Program for BTA is titled "The Magic of the Hummingbird." It is a journey through the captivating realm of the

Hummingbird, where Mexican beliefs, heritage, and culture intertwine with the eternal spirituality of this majestic creature. Each design created during the presentation will draw from both the physical inspiration - vibrant hues of blooming flowers, intricate techniques and graceful movements; as well as emotional inspiration drawn from the symbolic nature of the hummingbird: joy, adaptability, freedom, and a connection to those who have touched the artist's life.

Thursday, June 6th at 2pm:
Patricia Gillespie, Sharpstick Studio, Oakland

Patricia is Co-Owner/Lead Designer of Sharpstick Studio. Her studio specializes in large scale installations and environments of flower and foliage that express forms not found in traditional floral design. Her mantra: "We strive to create botanical sculptures and environments that explore the connection of people and flowers." When speaking about her approach to her artwork and process, Patricia Gillespie says: "I've always marveled at how patient, pervasive, and continuous nature can be; it always finds a way to survive. When left on its own, it overcomes and dominates any planned environment. My botanical sculptures always take on a life of their own; there's an ongoing conversation with living materials and they will tell you what they want to do." In this presentation, Patricia invites you into that conversation. She will discuss her large scale hanging sculptures that she has created for Bouquets to Art over the years as well as exploring her approach to living sculptures at every size and scale. Her sculptures push botanicals to their limit as well as create an element of surprise as they grow and transform into new forms over time.



Doors will open for each program at 1pm.

For any questions regarding programs, including underwriting opportunities please email chairs, Virginia Tsai (vtasai791@gmail.com) and Joan Varrone (jvarrone@aol.com)

If you are interested in lending your talents to create 10-12 simple floral arrangements for the tables at our Annual Luncheon in May, please contact Sydney Chaney-Thomas (sydneychaneythomas@gmail.com) or Nina Ward (nina_ward1@hotmail.com)

The Raffle Packages are on Sale!

The [website](#) is live and the link can be shared with friends and family. \$20 per ticket, \$100 for 6 tickets, "Blooming Dozen" 13 tickets are \$200.

We would like to thank everyone who contacted us and helped us solicit these amazing raffle prizes.

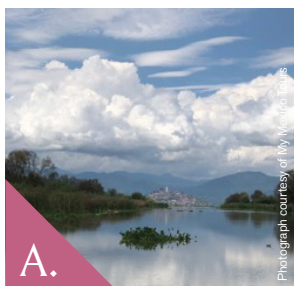
There are 8 wonderful packages, including an 8-day Viking River Cruise and the ever popular Taste of San Francisco.

BOUQUETS TO ART

2024 Luxury Raffle Packages

Raffle to Benefit the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco
\$20 per ticket; 6 tickets for \$100;
or "A Blooming Dozen"—13 tickets for \$200.

Winners will be drawn on June 9 at 2 PM and need not be present.



A.

Culture of Michoacán Tour

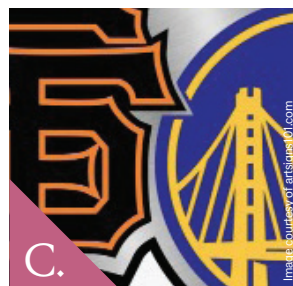
Experience the beauty of the Central Highlands of Mexico on this handcrafted, private five-night tour for two people with Betsy McNair, owner of My Mexico Tours. You'll enjoy the Spanish-style grandeur of Morelia's elegant architecture and the quaint beauty of picturesque Pátzcuaro, visit ancient archaeological sites of the native Purépecha people, and meet the current masters of Mexican folk art. Accommodations will be provided by the Hotel de la Soledad in Morelia and Casa Encantada B&B in Pátzcuaro.



B.

Taste of San Francisco

Savor a diverse selection of San Francisco cuisine at Gary Danko for classic French fare; Fang for modern twists on Chinese staples; Spruce for California-inspired dishes; Birch & Rye for a modern interpretation of Russian cuisine; Holbrook House for elevated contemporary American cuisine and The Rotunda for lunch under the historic stained-glass dome ceiling.



C.

Sporting by the Bay

Experience all the exciting major sports that San Francisco has to offer: two 2024 tickets to one pre-season 49ers football game, one Giants baseball game with Gotham Clubhouse entry in Oracle Park, one Warriors basketball game at Chase Center; Presidio Bowl gift certificate; the Sail GP Season 4 Grand Final for four at the Golden Gate Yacht Club; and a Premier Brunch Cruise for two on City Cruises.



D.

Putting Your Best Self Forward

Elevate your home and enhance your well-being through an expert 1 1/2-hour consultation with Dani Marie Interiors; an express makeover with Christina Choi; personal styling consultation with Shelley Gordon; "Better than Botox" premium facial with Gunilla at Isa-Alex; a scent experience and gift box from Jo Malone London; a package of ten classes from Yoga Flow SF; three personal training sessions at Iron + Mettle Fitness Studio; and a private pickleball lesson with Courtney Patterson.



E.

Music to Fill the Air

Two tickets to each of the following institutions: San Francisco Ballet, SF Jazz, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, Oberlin Dance Collective (ODC), and Opera Parallèle; dinner for two at Hayes Valley vegan restaurant, Baia; and one night at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Downtown SOMA.



F.

SF Splendors

A one-year Family-level membership at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and a behind-the-scenes Conservation Lab tour at the de Young museum; a custom jewelry piece by Alexis Bittar; lunch at the boutique caviar house Tsar Nicolai Caviar Café in the historic Ferry Building; lunch for four at the City Club of San Francisco; a private tour at Guide Dogs for the Blind; and a gift certificate for modern Greek cuisine at Kokkari.



G.

Ultimate Napa Valley Escape and Wine Bonanza

Spend one night in Napa Valley at the Solage, Auberge Resorts Collections luxury resort and spa; enjoy a wine-and-food experience for two at Ashes & Diamonds Winery; tasting at Far Niente Winery; experience premium wines at the Ackerman Heritage House; and take home 40 bottles of select wine donated by members of the San Francisco Auxiliary of the Fine Arts Museums in honor of Bouquets to Art's 40th anniversary.



H.

Viking 8-Day River Cruise

Sail for eight days on any one of Europe's storied rivers on an award-winning Viking Longship on a 2024-2025 embarkation. Stay in a standard stateroom, with meals, shore excursions, and tours included. Enjoy onboard amenities such as a restaurant, bar and lounge, library, and expansive sun deck. Viking Longships also feature elegant Scandinavian design, alfresco dining on the indoor/outdoor Aquavit Terrace, and environmentally considerate features. Blackout dates, restrictions, and taxes may apply.

A Very Special Visit to The Lotus Collection Highlights the Beauty of Textiles

Fifteen very lucky Auxiliary members got to experience a fascinating presentation by Kathleen Taylor at her Lotus Collection gallery in Sausalito. Little did we know what a treat we had in store. The Lotus Collection offers fabulous textiles, mostly from the 17th- 19th centuries, from Asia and Europe. These textiles, fashioned from only the finest materials, have been "seriously preserved" over the centuries so they are in pristine condition. And they were beautiful! Kathleen's stories - how she acquired them, who buys them and for what purpose - were totally captivating. Kathleen and her "First Assistant", Jennifer Forbeck, were incredibly knowledgeable. We are so fortunate that they are both Auxiliary members! It was a very special time.



Early 18th century silk brocade dress fabric



Late 17th century Italian chausable back silk embroidery on silk

Corporate Sponsorships Update

We are at 83% of our goal of \$100,000 for BTA 2024!

Many thanks to our generous sponsors:

Williams-Sonoma: \$25,000

Zenni.com: \$25,000

Native Bear: \$13,200

Delta Dental: \$5,000

Dodge & Cox: \$5,000

Relation Insurance Services: \$5,000

Price Family Dealerships: \$2,500

Sloat Garden Center: \$2,500

If you know of a local business that might be a good fit and interested in becoming a Bouquets to Art sponsor, our Corporate Chair Julie Yarbrough and the committee would love to hear about it. Please contact her at julie.yarbrough@gmail.com or 415-640-0359 with any leads and to discuss a strategy.