



230 Lakeville Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
(707) 762-5600 phone
(707) 789-0537 fax
www.petalumaartscenter.org

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Contact: Vicky Kumpfer (707) 762-5600 x 101, vkumpfer@petalumaartscenter.org

Subject: Petaluma Arts Center presents *Art of the Doll: Protection, Healing, Power, and Play*

Exhibition: July 16- September 19, 2010

Reception: July 17, 4-7pm

Please see the web site for more information on the exhibition www.PetalumaArtsCenter.org
Photos for individual artists available upon request at jramey@petalumaartscenter.org

Art dolls fabricated by contemporary artists are the focus of this unique exhibition. The exhibition will provide an opportunity to view what contemporary artists find significant in the doll form as an artistic expression.

Historically dolls, a human replica, have been used for amulets, remembrances, worship, psychological therapy and recreation. Dolls are a reflection of our socio-anthropological and cultural landscape since early humans created bone effigies. Other examples include the Venus of Willendorf, the clay Chinese Ghost Warriors, Egyptian tomb dolls, Japanese Bunraku puppetry, porcelain Victorian portrait dolls, which all lead to our modern interpretations and mass productions of dolls.

With 27 invited artists and 33 juried artists, this exhibition provides an incredibly wide range of styles (mythology to political commentary) and mediums from (elegant heirloom limited editions to recycled paper) by an amazing cast of 60+ artists from Europe to our own back yard presenting their unique doll creations. Among the invited artists we will present:



Akira and Larry Blount are a husband and wife team from Tennessee, whose work is in the Louvre and the Whitehouse collection of American Craft. They create whimsical fantastic creatures using organic materials.

The creative process spans generations as in the case of **Wendy Froud** and her son **Toby Froud**. Wendy's phenomenal and mysterious sculptures of the fairy world have been seen in numerous films. Toby's work delves further into the realm of fantasy sculpture. Both will be displayed in our exhibition.

Clayton Bailey, a former Cal State Hayward art instructor and NEA fellow, reincarnates familiar metal objects into life-size robots. There is even a chance to win the raffle for a tour of his zany Port Costa studio.

Patience by Akira and Larry Bount

continue

The director of sculpture at Academy of Art S F, **Margaret Keelan's** evocative nostalgic dolls use clay to create the illusion of ancient decaying wood.

Poe Dismuke, a popular former Petaluma resident, shows his Rube Goldberg inspired humorous concoctions.



Floyd Bell, a master carver, will showcase his world-renowned wooden art dolls. Bell's dolls have been on exhibit in several museums including the Louvre in Paris, the Wanke Museum in Germany, the White House and the National Archives. He was commissioned by Her Majesty, Queen Mother, Semane B. Molotlegi of the Bafokeng Nation, in South Africa to fashion a doll in her likeness.

Some of the 10 events in conjunction with the Doll exhibition include: International performance artists and NEA fellow, **Sha Sha Higby** sharing her elaborate and ephemeral "moving sculpture" costumes. Artist, author and counselor **Cassandra Light**, the founder of the Way of the Doll School, addresses incorporating sacred healing into the doll making process and discusses her amazing transformative doll personas. And the opportunity to take the "Make a Doll" workshop with local Petaluma artist **Christy Silacci**.

George Washington Carver, Frederick Douglass, and Mary McLeod Bethune by Floyd Bell

This exhibition which runs through September 19 allows time for educators to schedule their classes so that students can visit the Arts Center. Please call 707-762-5600 to schedule a tour.

Curator Geri Olson, Ph.D. professor and chair of the Psychology Department at SSU, is also the director of the Doll Project. Co-Curator Greer Upton is an artist, educator and consultant. Juror Carol Austin is the former curator the San Francisco Museum of Craft and Folk Art.

The Center is open Thursday through Monday, 12 to 4 pm, closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and most national holidays.

The Petaluma Arts Center is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming, the Center provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage and enjoy a diversity of art experiences.



INVITED ARTISTS

Clayton Bailey
Floyd Bell
Akira and Larry Blount
Stephanie Blythe
Joanna Callander
Shane Campbell
Nuala Creed
Poe Dismuke
Melody Ellis
Toby Froud
Wendy Froud
Phillip Glashoff
Margaret Keelan
Sha Sha Higby
Charla Khanna
Anne Klocko
Cassandra Light
Barbara Redemer
Nicole Sayre
Cher Shafer
Cristine Shively
Christi Silacci
Kat Soto
E.J Taylor
Alice Watterston
Gail Wilson
Bill Yoes

Plus additional artists and displays by: The Doll Mercantile
Wendy Bailey, Drew Washer
and The Flying Phoebes

JURIED ARTISTS

Truth Marie Almond
Barbara Bally
Michelle Baynes
Allegra Burke
Deborah Colotti
Aileen Cormack
Diana Effner & Londie Phillips
Deble Faulkner
Peggy Finnegan
Jessica Hudson
Drorit Kedem
Mikio Kondo
Sandra Maresca
Gene McClelland
Hella Merrill
Sarah Mitchel
Leslie Molen
Sherri Morgan
Linda Ortiz
Colleen Patell
Jerrie Patterson
Thomas Pratt
Marilyn Radzat
Nina Reimer
Charlene Doiron Reinhart
Abraham Schroeder
Jana Seely
Erica Somers
Cynthia Thiel
Ute Vasina
Carol Wedemeyer
Wendy Whittemore
Linda Yaxley

EVENTS & TRUNK SHOWS

\$5-\$10 Suggested donation

July 17, 1:00 Wendy Bailey Ball-Jointed Dolls

July 31, 1:00 Barbara Redemer Doll Stories (Bring doll to tea)

August 7, 1:00-3:00 Marin Needle Arts Guild Doll-making Event

August 14 1:00 Sha Sha Higby

August 21, 1:00 Truth Marie Almond Truth's Dolls, a History

August 21, 11-5:00 Sha Sha Higby workshop (\$90, must register in advance)

August 22, 1:00 Barbara Willis Trunk Show

August 28, 1:00 Andrew Tabbot Raggedy Ann and Friends (Bring anything Raggedy Ann)

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