
LEAH GARCHIK

- [Leah Garchik](#)

Friday, December 2, 2005

Redevelopment Agency Executive Director Marcia Rosen, Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Funds Director Kary Schulman and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Executive Director Ken Foster, three heavy lifters toting massive titles and sharp scissors, cut the ribbon at Wednesday night's opening of the Museum of Craft and Folk Art on Yerba Buena Lane. The lane is the newly made path between the Four Seasons and the Marriott, connecting Market Street and Mission. When the Jewish and Mexican museums are completed, the crafts museum will be tucked under a cozy quilt of culture, nestled with its sisters.

The new museum isn't a huge de Young-like operation. Movable gallery walls, ordered from Europe, didn't show up in time for the opening, held up by Homeland Security investigating some other goods in the shipping container. So walls were borrowed at the last minute from 100 Families Oakland, a community art project, director Kate Eilertsen told me. The works in the opening show were borrowed from local collections, and there was a kind of family feeling among the guests.

As a mola-loving, dangly earring-wearing, bona fide (if slightly wilting) flower child, I loved the exhibits and was drawn to the shop. But even better was the finery worn by opening-night guests: batik, tie-dye, trailing scarves, rocky-rough necklaces, beads, smocking, weaving, metallic inserts, panels of tucking, knitting and crochet. Take that, Giorgio Armani.

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Environmentalist Paul Hawken, who built Smith & Hawken into an empire before leaving the company 14 years ago, has become a cultural mogul. Hawken is producing "Ashes and Snow," a 56,000-square-foot Nomadic Museum exhibition of photographs and film by artist Gregory Colbert, which will be at the Santa Monica Pier from mid-January to mid-May 2006. The museum, an innovative structure designed by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban out of recycled materials, mostly steel cargo containers, was first assembled in 2002 at the Venice Arsenale; last spring, it attracted 300,000 visitors at a Hudson River pier in New York.

Colbert takes striking and romantic pictures of people with animals. After the show was a huge success in New York, and it came time to create a company that could put its profits into an educational nonprofit, Hawken, an old friend of Colbert's, stewarded the process. He helped work out the details and arrangements for erecting the huge structure -- "like a cathedral inside," said Hawken -- in Santa Monica, where local ordinances required that it be able to withstand winds of 100 mph and a magnitude 9.0 earthquake.

The exhibition will cost \$15 a head, enough to finance free visits for 40,000 kids in Los Angeles public schools from poor neighborhoods.

Hawken seems high on his career as an impresario. But he says that complex construction requirements have made him feel less like Sol Hurok than a building contractor.

He's sure the show would have been a hit in San Francisco, but he couldn't find a corporate sponsor here. Rolex filled the need in New York and Santa Monica, and has agreed to sponsor it in Beijing in 2007.

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Bruce Bellingham tells me that Democratic Rep. Loretta Sanchez, who beat Robert Dornan for the Orange County seat in a ferociously contested election nine years ago, was in San Francisco over Thanksgiving, trying to round up support for her to campaign for governor against Arnold Schwarzenegger. She was with her sister, Linda Sanchez, a congressional representative of Lakewood in Los Angeles County (they're the only sister act in Congress), and they stayed at the Inn at O'Reilly's on Polk Street.

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At the St. Ignatius-Aptos game a few weeks ago, Salmon Dave spotted a student wearing a rowing shirt with a "very big 'S,' " followed by a "small 'I' embedded in the middle of it, then an ever so slight separation, followed by the big letters of 'CREW.' " The logo, says Dave, appeared to be the verb that also serves as a noun meaning a metal fastening device that may be pushed into a piece of wood with a screwdriver.

P.S. Sandra Soklin spotted an American flag bumper sticker on a car in San Anselmo that said, "Cheney/Satan '08." Mark Pritchard saw an 8- or 9-year-old boy in San Francisco wearing a "Hipster in Training" hoodie.

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Ominous Signs of the Season II: "During holiday road trips," warns 3M, a festive company that manufactures Scotchgard OXY Auto Carpet & Upholstery Spot Cleaner Plus Stain Protector, "tracking in sand and salt from the roads, grease from the french fries and endless juice boxes all have serious car damage potential."

Public eavesdropping

"She does not remember lighting the mantel on fire last Christmas."

One shopper sharing nostalgia -- too many hot toddies? -- with another, overheard at Crate & Barrel in San Francisco by

Bill Duff.

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