



CONNECTIONS Blanton Volunteer News

July 2010

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VOLUNTEER MIXER

On Thursday evening, June 17, current and new volunteers alike gathered for a relaxed tour and mixer. After orientation, Visitor and Volunteer Services Intern, Austin Andrews, led a tour through the galleries pointing out a few of his favorite pieces, such as Jerry Bywaters' *Oil Field Girls*.

Following the tour, volunteers moved to The Blanton Café for snacks, sodas and wine. There, volunteers got the chance to chat and get to know one another better while munching on pizza and drinks. It was a fun and light evening for all in attendance.



New volunteers gather for a picture during their orientation.
Photo: George West

- By Katie Anaya

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

This fall, The Blanton will present the highly anticipated exhibition *Turner to Monet*, featuring masterpieces from the nineteenth century. As you know, The Blanton wouldn't be as successful without its volunteers, so we're asking for your help during the entire process of the exhibition. From summer preparation to member previews and public viewings, we need your help! On Thursday, September 30, all members will have the opportunity to preview the exhibition. We will need volunteers all day to monitor the gallery entrance and exit. Please mark your calendars. The exhibition officially opens October 2.

- By Katie Anaya

MESSAGE FROM MARTHA

We have a new five-year plan for operating The Blanton, and the volunteers will play a big part in our continued success over the coming years.

In the coming months, we will incorporate more administrative volunteer support than in the past, and we anticipate many requests for events assistance during *Turner to Monet*. This summer we've had two large orientation sessions and have 17 people in training. Be sure to join us in September when we fire up for another great year of assisting The Blanton as it serves a wide array of visitors and students. As always, I enjoy working with you,

Martha



Martha Bradshaw,
Manager of Visitor and
Volunteer Services
Photo: Charla Wood



Attendees of artist Jessica Dickinson's FreeDraw! Workshop draw on the moveable chalkboards in Workspace by Anna Craycroft.



VOLUNTEER INTERNS: AUSTIN ANDREWS AND KATIE ANAYA

Austin Andrews

Austin Andrews is an Art History and French senior who joined the Visitor and Volunteer Services department early this summer. As an intern, Austin has been primarily communicating with new volunteers—processing their applications, keeping in touch, and putting them into the volunteer database. During the last volunteer orientation, Austin gave a tour to 15 new volunteers featuring some of his favorite pieces in the museum’s collection.

New intern, Austin Andrews, will work throughout the year at The Blanton.

As far as art goes, Austin says he’s a “sucker for Modernism” and loves the period from Impressionism to Abstract Expressionism. He also really enjoys Caribbean art and will be writing an honors thesis over the next academic year on Caribbean artists and their diasporic movements abroad.

In the future, Austin says he would love to work at a museum or gallery and that his dream job would be working at the Menil Collection in Houston as a curator. Austin will be an intern with VVS through Spring 2011, so look for him various events and say hi!

- By Katie Anaya

Katie Anaya

This summer, the Blanton Museum of Art has been lucky to receive help from a hardworking new intern named Katie Anaya. Katie is a Plan II and Art History major in her fourth year here at The University of Texas. She is actively involved in each of The Blanton’s many events and has greeted groups of incoming freshmen to The Blanton during their orientation throughout the summer. Along with artist Claude van Lingen, Katie has also been working hard to prepare a great newsletter for The Blanton’s volunteers this July. So thanks, Katie!

As someone with an avid interest in everything Italian, Katie is particularly fond of the Italian Renaissance period. During a trip to Florence last summer, Katie recalls immediately falling in love with Renaissance art. She especially likes sculptures by Michelangelo, on which she plans to write her Plan II Thesis during the next academic year.

A student now, Katie hopes to find work as a museum curator after graduate studies. This fall, Katie will be interning for The Blanton’s Development Department. While we



Katie Anaya

here at Visitor and Volunteer Services will be saddened to lose Katie, we are grateful for her help this summer and are excited to see what wonderful things she will accomplish during her continued stay at The Blanton.

- By Austin Andrews

Intern Katie Anaya greets incoming freshmen as they prepare to play Blanton CSI: The Case of the Killed Kouros. In this scavenger hunt type game, freshmen must search the museum to find clues, solve riddles, and examine works of art to figure out who the murderer is!

Photo: George West





Anne Roussos
Photo: Katie Anaya

ANNE ROUSSOS: SHOWING VISITORS HER ‘OLD FRIENDS’

Volunteer Anne Roussos gets a charge out of helping visitors around the museum. The retired editor (after more than two decades working with various state agencies) hands out audio guides, explains *Stacked Waters*, helps with lockers, and greets and orients visitors to the collection she loves. “They’re like friends to me,” Roussos says of the works of art she sees so frequently. She tries to guide people to works she thinks they’ll enjoy. For example, she recently greeted a large group of senior citizens in wheelchairs and helped them find the elevators and check out the permanent collection upstairs.

Roussos is married to a fellow Texas graduate and has two grown sons—both UT grads as well – with one grandson and granddaughter. Roussos says she volunteers at The Blanton because she likes meeting people and sharing her love of art.

- By Katie Burns

BLANTON STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Kim Theel is originally from Wausau, Wisconsin, where she grew up around museums. Her mother worked at an art museum and by the time Theel was 13, she began helping out. Theel went on to attend the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee where she received a BA in Art History. Theel then moved to Austin where she took graduate courses at UT in museum education. She quickly got involved in the art world in Austin, interning at the Children’s Museum and the Austin Museum of Art.

As a graduate student, she often gave tours of The Blanton Galleries, including one of her favorite pieces today, Adolph Gottlieb’s *Cadmium Red over Black*. Theel’s favorite Old Master piece is Paolo Veronese’s *Head of St. Michael*, because she likes the juxtaposition of colors between the gold of his hair and the blue of the sky.

As Director of Membership and Visitor Services, Theel’s responsibilities are mainly to oversee the departments and make sure that they’re meeting their goals. Theel has been at UT for 14 years and with The Blanton for 11 years.

Over the years she’s enjoyed building a rapport with members and in her new position looks forward to building relationships with volunteers and visitors as well. Theel is a dedicated member of The Blanton staff, and was recently married! If you haven’t yet, stop by and congratulate her or just stop in to say hi!

- By Katie Anaya



Kim Theel
Photo: Jennifer Cota

HAVE YOU HEARD? BLANTON STUDENT GUILD

Are you interested in art? Are you interested in learning more about The Blanton? Are you a UT student? Then The Blanton Student Guild is just the place for you!

The Student Guild is a registered student organization whose mission is to share The Blanton’s resources with university students interested in learning about art in a relaxed environment.

As a member, you can volunteer at events, plan student activities like MIX, and even learn how to give tours. The Blanton Student Guild is open to all majors and backgrounds so what are you waiting for?

Email blantonguild@gmail.com for more information.



Photo: Debbie Trammell



Game Night at *B Scene* focused on the Anna Craycroft *WorkSpace* installation, *Subject of Learning/ Object of Study*.

CONNECTIONS

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GAME NIGHT AT B SCENE FULL OF PRIZES AND FUN

On June 4, The Blanton hosted another one of its fun-filled *B scenes*. This month's theme was Game Night, a nod to the current *WorkSpace* of Anna Craycroft, in which she transformed the space into an educational classroom. The night was hosted by John Erler, a member of the Alamo Drafthouse's Master Pancake Theatre, who kept the crowd going with a spelling bee and caption contest in the Atrium. Other games of the night included Pictionary in the *WorkSpace* area, Scattergories tours, and a collaborative drawing activity called Exquisite Corpse in the Prints & Drawings Lobby. Many did not walk away empty handed that night, with prizes provided by the Alamo Drafthouse, Blanton Museum Shop, Texas Roller Girls, and more.

-By Katie Anaya

TURNER TO MONET OPENS EARLY OCTOBER

The Blanton's upcoming exhibition, on view from October 2, 2010 to January 2, 2011, will feature masterpieces from prominent nineteenth-century artists.

Paintings by JMW Turner and Claude Monet are included, as well as works by Eugene Delacroix, JAD Ingres, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, and Asher B. Durand. The exhibition will focus on the striking range of styles, techniques and approaches practiced during this era of artistic revolution.



Monet, *Springtime*, ca. 1872, Oil on canvas
The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

WORKSPACE: ANNA CRAYCROFT

The current *WorkSpace* exhibition by Anna Craycroft entitled *Subject of Learning/Object of Study*, transformed not only the *WorkSpace* room, but also the adjoining eLounge into educational spaces. The *WorkSpace* gallery itself is full of color, with geometrically-shaped, sliding chalkboards and hanging, removable felt rugs that face opposite the chalkboards. The eLounge has also been transformed. Serving as a reference library for *WorkSpace*, it is full of texts on education and computers that display different words and sayings relating to education. It is also decorated with a large banner that reads, "Concrete Before Abstract Things Before". Possibly the best part of the current *WorkSpace* is its interactive quality, which lends itself well to the museum's public programs. During *B scene*, the chalkboards were used for Pictionary, and during regular hours classes can come up to *WorkSpace* and use the space as a temporary classroom.

UT students explore the Meredith eLounge during their seminar class.