



**TREE OF LIFE: MERMAID**

Amid a predominately polychrome forest of trees of life in ¡VIVA MÉXICO! dwells an aquatic enchantress. Surrounded by symbols of the cosmos, this mermaid, reminiscent of the legendary *La Clanchana* whose magical songs inspired artisans, serves as the curvilinear structure for a tree of life crafted by Herón Martínez Mendoza. Martínez Mendoza, an artist of humble origins but ultimately great artistic and commercial success, based many of his creations on legends and stories that he heard as a child. His work attracted much outside attention, and his burnished wares were the impetus for the transformation of his village, Acatlán de Osorio, into a potting community. In his lifetime, the artist produced countless trees of life, two of which are featured in ¡VIVA MÉXICO! With its graceful form, minimal tone-on-tone slip embellishment and softly glowing burnished treatment, *Tree of Life: Mermaid*, reveals a masterful hand. Serenading the school of fish to which she gave birth and other fanciful forms suggestive of seahorses, the mythical mermaid beckons and inspires the viewer just as she has the fishermen and artisans of southern Mexico throughout the ages.

Herón Martínez Mendoza  
**Tree of Life: Mermaid**  
Acatlán de Osorio, Puebla, Mexico,  
1970s-1980s  
Burnished clay  
Collection, Centro Cultural Tijuana

Alison Rossi, director of education

**EXTRA-VAZANDRA!**

Zandra Rhodes' boldly colored hair is both her brand and, despite its seeming frivolity, a serious statement about the wide swath of her art, which has been characterized as dramatic, extroverted and iconic. Born in England to a mother who was a Paris fashion show fitter and art teacher, Zandra early on produced textile designs considered outrageous, complemented by an equally glamorous lifestyle. One of the new wave of London designers in the 1970s, Zandra continues to be embraced by her British counterparts, having designed for the late Princess Diana. She was named a Commander of the British Empire by the Queen in 1997 and was recently appointed Chancellor of the University of the Creative Arts in the United Kingdom. Her label has spawned an industry of designer clothing, textiles, eyewear, bed linen, shoes, furniture and Royal Doulton China sold throughout Europe and the United States as well as costumes for San Diego Opera's *The Magic Flute* and *The Pearl Fishers* and the upcoming *Aida* at San Francisco Opera.

Opening this October at Mingei International, **ZANDRA RHODES' A Lifelong Love Affair with Textiles** has previously been exhibited in London, Italy, Australia, Mexico City and Los Angeles. Transcending its punk origins, her work is featured in many museum collections, among them the Victoria & Albert, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian; she has had more than 30 solo exhibitions and is the recipient of 12 degrees, four of them honorary, as well as numerous awards including a 2003 San Diego Living Legacy Award. Zandra is also the founder of London's Fashion and Textile Museum.

Combining pop art sensibility with organic materials and nature themes, Zandra's exuberant retrospective, by her own reckoning "will be extra special because it connects with Mingei International and shows the inspiration from cultures drawn particularly from the Museum's own collections. The exhibition will be very dynamic."

Hardly abating, Zandra's fertile imagination and idiosyncratic creativity continue to flourish. She recently designed an Indian tipi set featuring a lavishly printed tipi, rubber boots and rainwear, and a new book in the works chronicling her career from 1961 - 71 has as its appropriately droll title, *Zandra Rhodes' Textile Revolution: Medals, Wiggles and Pop*.

Charlotte Cagan,  
director of marketing and planning



**C A L E N D A R**

**CURRENT EXHIBITIONS**

**¡VIVA MÉXICO!** Heroes and Artisans  
Closes Sun Jan 2, 2011

**SONABAI**  
Another Way of Seeing  
Closes Sun Sep 5

**SELECTED GIFTS**  
from the Permanent Collection

**COMING EXHIBITIONS**

**BETWEEN EAST AND WEST**  
Folk Art Treasures of Romania  
Opens Sun Aug 1

**ZANDRA RHODES**  
A Lifelong Love Affair with Textiles  
Opens Sun Oct 3

**COMING EVENTS**

**ENJOYMENT**  
**EARLY EVENING**  
Fri Sep 24 6 - 9 pm

**MEMBERS' RECEPTION**  
**ZANDRA RHODES**  
A Lifelong Love Affair with Textiles  
Sat Oct 2 5 - 7 pm

**FAMILY EVENTS**  
**COMMUNITY SUNDAY**  
**DISCOVER MINGEI! Treasure Hunt**  
The last Sunday of each month  
Noon - 4 pm

For up-to-date information, see the quarterly program flyer, subscribe to our free monthly e-bulletin, *dispatch*, at [www.mingei.org/enews](http://www.mingei.org/enews) or visit [www.mingei.org](http://www.mingei.org).

Mingei International Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and is a member of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, the San Diego Regional Arts Coalition and the San Diego Museum Council. Financial support is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, and the County of San Diego Community Enhancement Program.

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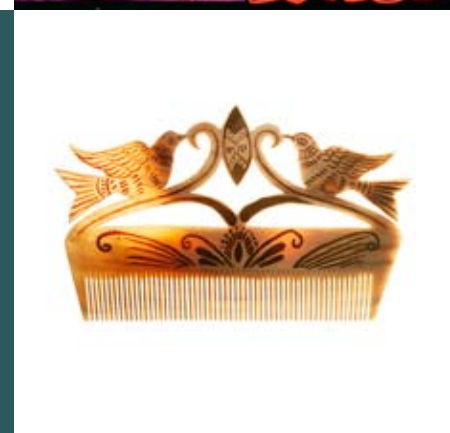
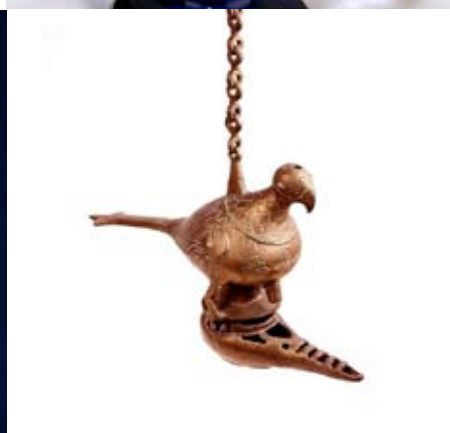
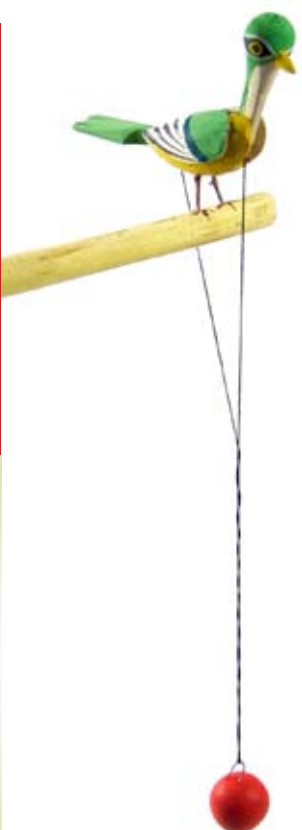
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*Communique*

"If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come."

Chinese proverb



**BIRDS FOR SUMMER** from the collection of Mingei International Museum

**OF MANY USES, ALL BEAUTIFUL**

- |                      |                     |                          |                      |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Kite, India          | Pecking Toy, China  | Limited Edition, Finland | Noisemaker, Bolivia  |
| Candleholder, Mexico | Futon Cover, Japan  | Oil Lamp, India          | Blouse Panel, Panama |
| Finial, India        | Whistle, Mexico     | Fetish, Zuni             | Comb, Mexico         |
| Bowl, Mexico         | Door Hanging, Japan | Ornament, Mexico         |                      |

Nestmaking, Masked Weaver, South Africa

**MINGEI**  
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

**BETWEEN EAST AND WEST**  
FOLK ART TREASURES OF ROMANIA

Romania is a country everyone has heard of, but many people are vague about - where it is on the map, what people live within its borders and what one would find there.



If one travels eastward across Europe, the farthest point of this long land journey would be Romania's eastern border. The coming Mingei International exhibition, **BETWEEN EAST AND WEST Folk Art Treasures of Romania**, will showcase the rich and diverse crafts and artistic expression of this ancient territory.

The recent gift to Mingei International Museum of a personal archive and folk art collection from San Diegan Lucia Ionescu Kanchenian provided the impetus and inspiration for this exhibition. As curator of the exhibition, my history with Romania dates from my first travels there in the late 1970s as a research scholar. As happens with many travelers whose initial romantic attraction to the exotic turns into a longtime love affair, each of my many return visits has revealed an ever-changing kaleidoscope of folk arts. The experience there of its costumes, textiles, architecture, works in wood, pottery and other objects of daily and ceremonial use is accompanied by music and dance. The richness of these related arts derives energy from the confluence of East and West and a long history of civilizations, among them the Roman, Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires, that have inhabited the region. Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Armenians, Jews, and Roma are all part of the rich cultural heritage of the land, adding seemingly endless variety and dimension to the art found there. The makers of such wonders have always been eager to show me how these objects were made and to invite me to share in the joy of their creation. The roots of Romanian folk art may be found in long-ago civilizations, but its production today remains vital.

This exhibition's lenders, all of whom have traveled or lived in Romania, have succeeded in bringing back with them to the United States extraordinarily beautiful works of folk art and craft. There are wooden chests and benches embellished with paint; pottery in fanciful forms for various uses; magnificent hand-embroidered costumes and household textiles, each one specific to its own linguistic and geographical zone; New Year's celebration masks intended to frighten and complex icons painted on glass. Folk art aficionada Queen Marie of Romania, touring the United States in 1926, dedicated Maryhill Museum in the state of Washington and donated to it many personal items, several of which will be on loan to the exhibition. Mingei International is deeply thankful to our generous donors and lenders for helping to make possible this exhibition, which will honor the bounty of Romania's age-old folk art tradition.

Joyce Corbett, curator

**Woman's Jacket**  
Transylvania Region, Romania, 20th century  
Wool, glass beads, sequins, cotton braiding  
Gift of Katalin Kádár Lynn



## COMING EXHIBITIONS

It's a pleasure to tell you of other shows besides *BETWEEN EAST AND WEST* through June 2011. Opening October 3 is *ZANDRA RHODES A Lifelong Love Affair with Textiles*. This British designer, who lives and works half the year in the San Diego area, has been doing amazing work since the 1960s, and this retrospective will present 47 high fashion costumes she created from her distinctive printed textiles. Zandra will select textiles from a number of cultures represented in Mingei International's collection to display alongside her work, initiating a lively conversation about actual and possible influences and inspirations.

**MANEKI NEKO** Japan's Beckoning Cats: from Talisman to Pop Icon will showcase a recent gift to the Museum of 155 cats in porcelain, wood, lacquer, stone, metal and papier-mâché, a collection formed over 20 years by one person in avid pursuit of these whimsical creatures. The first scholarly book on this subject, written by Alan Scott Pate, is being produced and published by Mingei International.

**NEW JEWELRY IN A NEW MEDIUM** will feature a collection – also donated recently to the Museum by a group of collectors – of polymer clay beads and adornment. Polymer clay – a versatile plastic that is easy to handle and has the capacity to take color – has been exploited during the past 40 years by an impressive number of excellent designer craftsmen.

**NAVAJO WOVEN PRAYERS** 1860 – 1920, with a major book being produced and published by Mingei International, will highlight the Museum's important collection – and one private one – of wearing blankets, rugs and art squares from a period before regional styles developed fully and one not yet documented in depth. Included will be comments by Navajo weavers and tribal cultural leaders about the possible meanings woven into these great works of art.

*Rob Sidner, Director*

## DIRECTOR'S PICK

Among the first objects I was privileged to acquire for the collection, this Procession of the Virgin of Guadalupe was purchased in 2006 as the first-prize winner of the craft exhibition held annually in Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, to celebrate Mexico's Day of the Dead. It is a tour de force in unpainted terracotta by Daniel de la Cruz López de Capula – a man in his 30s whom our group of Museum members was able to meet. This procession has bearers and musicians that are all skeletons.

Four women, in long robes and veiled with the narrow shawls with long fringe characteristic of Michoacán, shoulder a palanquin that carries the statue. A trellis surrounding the statue is densely covered with flowers. Two women follow closely, carrying pots of flowers, and behind them four male musicians, one with alto saxophone, another with tuba, a third with bass drum and the last with, perhaps, a noisemaker and carrying a cane on his arm. Three of the men carry great sombreros with long leather straps. The men all wear traditional close-fitting trousers, sandals and vests over shirts with handkerchief neckties. This marvel of hand-molded and carved clay is made in such imaginative detail and so delicately that the figures, at once skeletons with fully articulated bony hands and feet, seem to have living bodies beneath their clothing and creases and folds in their clothing that look entirely natural.



**Procession**  
22 inches L x 12 inches W,  
x 19 inches H.

## Community Center Outreach

Funding from the James Irvine Foundation is enabling Mingei International to offer participatory art projects connected with current exhibitions to the communities surrounding the Joan and Vi Jacobs Center at Market Street Plaza and Bayside Community Center in Linda Vista. Like the Museum's successful school outreach program funded by the Akaloa Resource Foundation, the Community Center Outreach Program, also called **ART OF THE PEOPLE**, aims to bring the Museum experience to residents in their communities while creating a more welcoming atmosphere for them when they visit the Museum.

Initial stages of the program have been devoted to discussions between the Museum and the community centers to establish guidelines that ensure that the needs of the areas' residents will be met. Beginning in September, nine six-week sessions per center will be conducted, ending in December 2011. Each session will begin with a Museum visit and end with an evening at the community center devoted to an exhibition of participants' completed works. In addition to integrating the Museum into these communities, the innovative program promotes cross-cultural exchanges within each community. This initiative also fosters intergenerational relationships, offering classes geared toward audiences of a variety of ages and backgrounds.



Kurt Lightfoot

## Early Evenings Evoke Enthusiasm

Viva Jazz, the recent **Early Evening** at Mingei, attracted more than 500 guests to enjoy an evening of music by The Gatherers and The Jazz 88 All-Stars and Mexican-themed light food and drink set within the Museum's exhibitions.

The next **Early Evening** will take place Friday evening, September 24.

## New Titles for John Seiber and Christine Knoke

### JOHN SEIBER

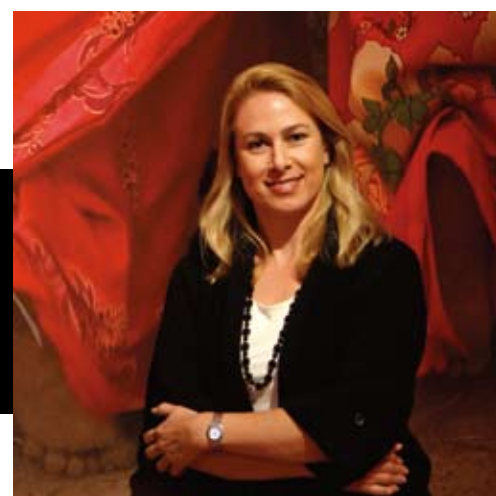
Mingei International's new board chairman John Seiber has a long, successful career in international brokerage and investment banking, currently as senior vice president – investments at UBS Financial Services, Inc. Equally, John has invested in community service, having been chair of the board of Francis Parker School and of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation and currently as chairman of the Kraemer Endowment Foundation, a director of the Dickinson Foundation and a member of the President's Council of the San Elijo Lagoon. John brings a wealth of financial knowledge to Mingei International, but he is also clearly drawn to the Museum's cultural assets, stating, "I believe that a great museum like Mingei International is an important cultural institution that helps make a vibrant, educated community and is one of the jewels in the crown of America's Finest City."



### CHRISTINE KNOKE

Joining the Mingei International staff in June, Christine Knoke has assumed the position of director of exhibitions after nearly 15 years at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, most recently serving as curator. Christine espouses strong aesthetic principles, stating that "artistic expression is a universal and essential component of daily life, worthy of contemplation and celebration." She has taken the reins of the Exhibitions Department with enthusiasm: "I am excited about the new challenges and opportunities at Mingei International Museum. I look forward to working with the fabulous Mingei International staff in bringing dynamic and multicultural exhibitions to San Diego."

*Charlotte Cagan, director of marketing and planning*



## In The Library

If you have a passion for fashion history, fabric design or textiles you will not want to miss a visit to the **Frances Hamilton White Art Reference Library** after viewing the exhibitions *BETWEEN EAST AND WEST* Folk Art Treasures of Romania (opens August 1) and *ZANDRA RHODES A Lifelong Love Affair with Textiles* (opens October 3).

Garments with pin tuck pleats, exquisite smocking and embroidery that transfixed you in the galleries will entice you to pick up the book *Cusaturi Romanesti (Romanian Embroidery)* by Aurelia Doaga to learn more about these techniques. Perhaps it is Lucia Ionescu Kanchenian's Romanian heritage that intrigues you. Immerse yourself in an exploration of her ancestry, following her family history through albums filled with personal histories and

original photographs from the Museum's *Lucia Ionescu Kanchenian Archive*. Still curious to know more, you can leaf through the rare books on Romanian culture, featuring the enchanting illustrations in *Soarele Si Luna: Balade Populare Romanesti (The Sun and the Moon: Romanian Folk Ballads)*. The vibrantly hued flowing frocks in *Zandra Rhodes and the Art of Textiles: A Lifelong Love Affair* by Amy de la Hay will

also delight you. Opening the pages of this book, you once again make the connection that traditional textile designs and fine craftsmanship have inspired artists' creations throughout history and continue to do so today.

*Kristi Ebrig-Burgess, coordinator of library services and volunteer coordinator*

## New Acquisitions



The Museum has added to its rich collection of Japanese folk art a finely crafted Meiji Period, polychromed wood *kanban*, or signboard. A *kanban*, more than simply a sign, can be likened to a family crest, created to honor the soul of the business it represents and to bring respect to its owners. Generously given by Maurice M. Kawashima, this *kanban* depicts the lively, smiling Okame, goddess of mirth, with carved character writing that reads, "Ishikawa Sake Shop, beautifully blended pure sake made by Otuma Winery." Kawashima has also donated an exquisite teahouse sign. Both are stunning examples of Japanese craftsmanship and excellent additions to the Museum's collection.

In honor of Michael Mansfield, longtime Museum member and volunteer, Robert M. Cerello has donated a superior collection of folk art from various cultures. Many of the objects are from diverse regions of Mexico and range in subject matter from papier-mâché skeletons to clay molded religious processional figures.

Purchases of interest include a group of three baskets, two from Botswana, and the third from Japan. The contemporary Botswana pieces are delicately woven with palm fronds and grass, in rich yet muted color patterns. The origin of the Japanese basket, used for kimono storage, dates to the early twentieth century and is elegantly woven of bamboo.

*Jobanna Pope, interim education manager*

## DONORS OF ART OBJECTS TO THE COLLECTION

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Anne Weaver



**Sake Shop Sign**  
Honshu Island, Japan, c. 1800  
Wood, pigment  
Gift of Maurice M. Kawashima

**Basket**  
Botswana, 2009  
Palm, grass

## Museum Connoisseurs Help Build the Collection

In 1998, Mingei International Museum was 20 years old, with a new facility in Balboa Park and an art collection of 8,000 objects, obtained entirely as a result of generous donations from members and friends. It was an opportune moment to focus on further development of the collection. With this in mind, Founding Director Martha Longenecker established the Connoisseurs as a donor group dedicated to advancing the Museum's acquisition program, and she invited Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan to become its first members and chairs. They continued to fill this role with great distinction and enthusiasm until the week of Maurice's death at age 94 in June 2007.

Today, Mingei International's collection has grown to 20,000 objects from more than 140 countries and the Connoisseurs, chaired by Mary and Ron Taylor, continue to provide essential support to advance the Museum's acquisition program. Through contributions of more than one million dollars over the past twelve years, 165 magnificent individual objects or groups of objects have entered the collection that otherwise would not have been obtained – Navajo weavings that will be on exhibition next year, magnificent Indonesian jewelry and more than a dozen Dale Chihuly pieces, including the chandelier currently hanging in the Escondido facility.

Mingei International's collection is a vital component of the Museum, an appreciating asset that provides the foundation for all its exhibitions and education programs. We deeply appreciate this special group of Museum friends who have supported Mingei International through gifts to the Connoisseurs, and we hope to welcome many more supporters in the years to come.

If you would like to have more information about the Museum's Connoisseurs, please contact the Development Office.



**Kartik Seshadri & Friends**  
benefit concert, March 12, 2010  
Sherwood Auditorium, Museum  
of Contemporary Art San Diego

**Mingei Fusion 2.0**  
May 5, 2010, Balboa Park Museum



## Indonesian Trunk Show in The Collectors' Gallery

On Friday, October 15, the Indonesian Arts Center (IAC), an organization committed to the preservation of Indonesian artistic forms found throughout the archipelago, will present a trunk show of diverse textiles in The Collectors' Gallery.

Based in San Diego, IAC aims to create a center of cultural collaboration between Indonesia and the United States by offering performances and educational programs featuring Indonesian music, dance, textiles and other forms of art, as well as marketing the crafts of Indonesian artists. IAC strives to discover and present a variety of Indonesian artistic and musical traditions.

In conjunction with **VIVA MÉXICO!** Heroes and Artisans, The Collectors' Gallery is offering a selection of special edition commemorative plates by ceramic artist Javier Ramos Lucano. The example pictured was created to honor the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution.

Javier Ramos Lucano  
**Plate – Centenario de la Revolución (special edition)**  
Tonalá



**Lucia, Mihai, and Eugen Ionescu**  
Romania, 1931



## RECENT FINANCIAL DONATIONS

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Mingei International is grateful to all its members and friends who provide financial support throughout the year. Whether through an annual membership, contribution to the annual appeal, donation in support of special exhibitions or programs, naming opportunity or legacy gift through a will or bequest, you provide essential funds that continue to make Mingei International Museum a special cultural gift to San Diego and the world. Thank you for your continued support.

For information about all donation opportunities, please contact Cathy Sang, director of development, at 619-239-0003, ext.110 or devdir@mingei.org. You may also donate online at [www.mingei.org](http://www.mingei.org).

*Cathy Sang, director of development*