People, Places, Projects

The INTERNATIONAL CLASSROOM of the University of Pennsylvania Museum provided two artist-presenters to the Annual Art Night celebration of Cheew Elementary School in Gloucester Township, New Jersey. Artist Yinka Natty Adeyemo of Nigeria demonstrated traditional drumming, and Jingxiang Liang of China shared his expertise in Chinese ink and watercolor painting with the 3000 participants who attended the event. International Classroom arranges for international students and residents of Philadelphia to give presentations about their countries and cultures in a variety of venues, like this one, to provide multicultural educational opportunities. International Classroom currently involves 180 speakers from more than 60 countries.

In 1952 the University Museum mounted an exhibit entitled "Fourteen Eyes in a Museum Storeroom," which put on display objects selected by representatives of the entertainment and museum worlds. The WOMEN’S COMMITTEE of the Museum is today repeating that exhibit’s popular format by inviting artists, actors, designers, and other notable cultural figures to search the storerooms and select personal favorites from the shelves and drawers. The exhibit of the selections—which may have to be called "Forty-four Eyes..." due to the enthusiastic response of those invited to participate—will open in April of 2000. It will coincide with the groundbreaking for the proposed new East Wing of the Museum. The "Fourteen Eyes" that picked pieces in

Anne d’Harnoncourt, daughter of one of the original "Fourteen Eyes" participants, looks with favor on a Chilcoot (Northwest Coast) basket that she found in a Museum storeroom.

Photograph by Jennifer Gibson

Lipchitz, sculptor; Louis E. Stern, collector; Franklin C. Watkins, painter.

Charles Addams remarked with characteristic ghoulish optimism on one of his choices, a bird from Sepik River, New Guinea: "I chose this because some islanders, out of extreme boredom, went to the trouble to construct it. Besides, desiccated birds happen to appeal to me."

Some of the more than "Fourteen Eyes" that are picking pieces for the exhibit slated to open in 2000: Ralph Archbold, Benjamin Franklin impersonator; Edmund Bacon, urban planner; Kevin Bacon, actor; Robert Ballard, oceanographer; Phillip Glass, composer; Anne d’Harnoncourt, director, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Zahi Hawass, undersecretary for the Giza monuments, Egypt; Yo-Yo Ma, cellist; Mary McFadden, designer; Harold Prince, producer/director; Robert A. K. Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, England; Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi, architects; Princess Sirindhorn of Thailand.

The University of Pennsylvania Museum on the Road

"Pomo Indian Basket Weavers: Their Baskets and the Art Market"
September 1999—September 2000—University of Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia

"Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur"
May 30, 1999—September 5, 1999—Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas

"Searching for Ancient Egypt: Art, Architecture and Artifacts from the University of Pennsylvania Museum"
March 27, 1999—July 25, 1999—Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska

"Roman Glass: Reflections on Cultural Change"