

# EDUCATING THROUGH ART

## YOUTH & FAMILIES

SAM continues to strengthen the connection between art and families through community spaces and programs. At the downtown museum the Family Room, Second Avenue niche and the first-floor display panels are all spaces in which the community can explore their relationship to art and cultures from around the world. At the Seattle Asian Art Museum, the art activities room continues to be a vibrant space, full of fun and inspiration.

The Second Avenue niche has maintained its presence as an educational resource area for special exhibitions. *Picture Yourself in Armor* was a highlight for families during the *Spain and the Age of Exploration* exhibition. Children and adults alike were invited to try on real armor or a dress fit for royalty.

The first-floor panels are a place where the community is invited to show off their art talent. Youth in Focus, one of our ongoing community partners, displayed works of black-and-white photography that were inspired by the *New Photography and Video from China* exhibition.

Family festivals continue to utilize working artists in a celebration of art and communities. The *Song, Story, Speech* Family Festival included local Native weavers, artists and storytellers. The Spain Family Festival paired up with Bainbridge Performing Arts for a performance of *The Adventures of Don Quixote*. Other collaborators included the Chess Mates Foundation, children's author Jim Whiting, armor fabricators and botanical illustrators. The Korean Family Festival at SAAM was held during the *Mountain Dreams* exhibition. Families discovered traditional Korean clothing to try on, enjoyed musical entertainment, drew cranes and clouds with local artist Chung Hee Kim, and viewed Korean anime.

## RENTAL/SALES GALLERY

Fiscal Year 2005 was the Rental/Sales Gallery's first full year in our new space at Third Avenue and University Street. The increased visibility and larger area are proving to be as beneficial as we had hoped, helping the gallery boost both sales and rentals. The exhibition schedule was expanded from eleven shows to twelve. Six of these focused on the gallery's partners, two were "Introductions" shows that featured artists who were new to the gallery, while the remaining shows completed our series focusing on Seattle art schools and arts organizations such as Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle Print Arts and the University of Washington.



Youth in Focus student Lynn B. shows off her work. Photo: Laura O'Quin



Queen Sofia and King Juan Carlos of Spain talk with school children during their visit to SAM while Governor Gary Locke and Mayor Greg Nickels listen in. Photo: Team Photogenic



Teacher Preview Evening. Photo: Ben Becker

## SCHOOL & TEACHER PROGRAMS

This year's special exhibition *Spain in the Age of Exploration* offered an opportunity for SAM educators to reach out to new audiences, including Spanish language teachers and students. We offered bilingual tours, reached Spanish language teachers and collaborated with Romance Languages professors at the University of Washington. SAM designed a bilingual curriculum CD-ROM for K-12 educators in collaboration with local teachers and University of Washington professors. This exciting new resource reached over ten thousand educators and was a second-place winner of the 2005 American Association of Museums (AAM) Publications Design Competition.

SAM's Wyckoff Teacher Resource Center (TRC) participated in numerous education outreach events across Washington State in an effort to reach new audiences, highlight our art education resources and share information about upcoming SAM exhibitions. In Olympia, Spokane, Yakima and Ellensburg, thousands of educators received curriculum CD-ROMs and exhibition posters.

The Teachers as Scholars program is a good example of how SAM continues to reach new audiences through creative partnerships. This partnership between SAM and the University of Washington Simpson Center for the Humanities and Seattle Arts and Lectures has deepened over the past five years through a shared commitment to serving the K-12 community. Each year, SAM sponsors a series of seminars as a part of this program. This year the partnership provided two two-day programs on Spain, Empire and the New World and on Chinese Painting and Cultural Encounters.

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## BUILDING NEW LINKS WITH THE COLLECTION

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As a general museum, SAM has numerous disparate collections, including art from Africa, Northwest Coast Native America, Asia, Europe and the United States totaling nearly 22,000 objects. A central feature of our new installation in the expanded downtown building is a conscious effort to demonstrate connections between these collections and between past and present. Throughout the installation, SAM curators will remind visitors that the history of world art is a series of influences and cross-influences—whether through trade, conquest or travel. For example, in the eighteenth century, Europeans emulated porcelain imported from Asia; twentieth-century African and African American artists created works that examine the history of Africa's complex and difficult relations with Europe; and Northwest American artists in the 1940s made paintings inspired by Asian art. These relationships will be made explicit through key juxtapositions of objects from different cultures—a fresh look at the origins of art and another way that SAM connects art to life.

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Visitors admiring paintings during the *Spain in the Age of Exploration* exhibition.