



Although Grandma Prisbrey has left Simi Valley, her Bottle Village has been granted funds for restoration.

Here in L.A., folks don't duck out of rain into a museum

ART NEWS

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As the year draws to a close, museums turn to annual box office attendance as one measure of their programs' success or failure. This year, a lot of blame is getting placed on the weather.

The J. Paul Getty Museum had 290,000 visitors this year, down from 305,000 in 1982. A spokesman cited the Malibu mudslides last March as the villain. Bad weather was also held accountable for the diminished crowds at the Huntington Gardens' museum and library: January and February rains and then the August heat caused the drop to 480,000 from last year's 527,755. Weather didn't affect the neighboring Norton Simon Museum of Art in Pasadena, however, which reported between 175,000 to 200,000 visitors, about the same as last year.

The Temporary Contemporary claimed an impressive attendance of 23,946, counting the 2,000 who came to the opening gala on Nov. 18. But that's not as impressive as the L.A. County Museum of Art, where "Shogun Age" has drawn some 33,000 people in the last 10 days. This reflects the museum's healthy upswing in attendance, from 374,000 in 1982 to over 450,000 this year. And that's with many of its galleries closed for renovation during the first three months of last year. The re-installation of the permanent collection and the exhibitions of Dutch painting and German Expressionist sculpture were credited with museum's increase in popularity.

Bottle Village, a folk art environment created by Grandma Prisbrey in the Simi Valley, has been awarded \$21,000 for preservation and maintenance. The future of the woman's home, built of glass bottles set in concrete, has been uncertain since — due to her poor health — she moved to San Francisco to live near relatives. The Preserve Bottle Village Committee has just received a bundle of funds: a \$6,000 grant from the California Arts Council; a \$5,000 matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to be used to hire consultants to aid in the restoration; and a \$10,000 grant from the L.J. Skaggs Foundation for the actual restoration.

The L.A. County Museum of Art has announced the appointment of two new trustees, Dona Kendall and Andrea Van de Kamp, bringing the board's total to 39. Kendall is on the board of directors of the Joffrey Ballet, and a trustee of the Smithsonian Institute's Archives of American Art. Van de Kamp, wife of the state's attorney general, is director of public relations for Carter, Hawley, Hale.

The California Arts Council will be getting two new members. Gov. George Deukmejian announced the appointment of Patricia Geary Johnson of Rolling Hills to replace Peter Coyote, and Laurel E. Dickranian of San Francisco, who takes over for Karney Hodge.

Johnson holds a B.A. in art from Stanford University. A painter who works in watercolor, she has taught and exhibited. She has served on the board of governors of the Otis Art Institute, the fund-raising council of the L.A. County Museum of Art, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Southern California's Idyllwild Campus for Visual and Performing Arts.

Dickranian received her B.A. from Pomona College and M.B.A. from UCLA. She is associate director of development and director of annual support for the San Francisco Symphony.

This is the 50th anniversary of the "Duck Stamp" contest, purported to be the largest artist's commission in the world. It was certainly profitable to William Morris, 38, an engineer and relatively unknown wildlife illustrator from Mobile, Ala. It is expected that his earnings for his duck portrait will top the \$2 million mark.

Every year, some lucky artist's painting of ducks or geese is chosen to adorn the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Required on every license to hunt such waterfowl, the stamp costs \$7.50, and last year licenses brought in some \$18 million. (The revenue is used, paradoxically, to purchase wetlands for the preservation of the migratory birds.) Not only are the stamps avidly sought by collectors, the original art is published in a print edition for which there is a fervent audience. Past winners have earned more than \$1 million in poster sales.

For the first time since the stamp was created in 1934 — by a political cartoonist for the Des Moines Register named Jay "Ding" Darling — 100 works of art from the Duck Stamp contest are on view outside of Washington, D.C., and are now showing at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. There is also a display of all 50 duck illustrations and their stamps, as well as the original die lots used to produce the stamps. For information

and hours, call (714) 792-1334.

Nominations are open for the 18th annual "Business in the Arts Awards," sponsored by the Business Committee for the Arts, Inc. and Forbes magazine. Awards are given to businesses of any size, anywhere in the country, who have supported the arts through cash grants, or have loaned personnel, donated services or products and special marketing tie-ins. Nominations may be made by an individual or an arts organization, or by the business itself, by writing to: Sandra E. Dilley, Awards Administration, Business Committee for Arts, Inc., 1775 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019. Or by calling (212) 664-0600. The deadline for nomination is Feb 1