

SOFA Chicago Features Collection of Functional Art, Sculpture

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CHICAGO—With an attendance level of 30,000, SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art) Chicago, which took place in November, provided its visitors the opportunity to visit the booths of 91 galleries, view seven special exhibits and attend the lecture series featuring prominent artists, museum curators, arts professionals and collectors in 33 presentations.

“At SOFA Chicago 2000, galleries took larger booths than they have in the past, which shows the underlying feeling that galleries trusted that it would be a productive and useful event,” said Show Founder Mark Lyman. “In every show there is some evolution, and I would say 80 percent of the dealers maintain the continuous core. This year we have a larger international group of galleries, representing nine countries outside of the United States.”

Lyman said the SOFA shows, which began in 1994, have led to the formation of an art community consisting of artists, galleries, collectors, nonprofit arts organizations

and art professionals.

As one of the 70 speakers participating in the lecture series at the show, Jo Lauria, associate curator of decorative arts at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), presented a survey of the major stylistic movements in the history of ceramics during the second half of the 20th century, using the LACMA organized traveling exhibition titled “Color and Fire: Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1950-2000” as a source for discussion. She believes the SOFA exhibitions provide a terrific benefit to curators.

SOFA Chicago 2000 was a forum for the introduction of new artists, new works by established artists, new galleries and newly published books. **The debut of the work of David Marks titled “Trilobite” exhibited by del Mano Gallery, led to a commission to create a similar piece for a Chicago couple. Marks, a fine artist working in wood and the president of the California Contemporary Craft Association, found SOFA Chicago to be “an enriching and inspiring experience.”**



- 1 Albert Paley (r) and Martin Blank (l) at the opening exhibit of “Integration and Dialogue” by Riley Hawk Galleries
- 2 Ray Leier (l) of del Mano Gallery and David Marks (r), artist and president of the California Contemporary Craft Association are fueling the wood art movement.
- 3 International glass artist Dante Marioni, represented by Heller Gallery, debuted his book, *Dante Marioni Blown Glass*.
- 4 Wendell Castle's bronze sculpture, “Mid-summer” was exhibited by Leo Kaplan Modern Gallery.
- 5 Kenn Holsten brought the art of Dale Chihuly to Chicago.
- 6 SOFA Chicago 2000 was organized by Mark Lyman of Expressions of Culture.
- 7 Bruce Pepich (r) and Joedy Simonsen (l) presented the accomplishments and plans of the Wustum Museum, Racine, Wis.