

# Accompaniment

MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

Is funded in part by the Mesquite Arts Council, First State Bank and Chicago Title Co. Media sponsorships include the Mesquite News, KEOM 88.5 and



*Quilt Mania II & the Mesquite Arts Center features*

## *Mola's: From the Kuna Indians of Panama & Colombia*

*January 14 — March 15, 2009*

**D**escribed by collectors as hand-sewn, the front-piece of a garment known as mola (blouse) is functional, visually sophisticated and indigenous to the Kuna (or Cuna) Indians of Central America. The fine examples in this exhibition come from two private collections. We are pleased to exhibit them at the Mesquite Arts Center because they fulfill our mission as an advocate for culturally diverse arts programs.



*"Blonde Angel" from the Dessie and Nelson Berry Collection*

Western civilization has at best a vague understanding of the Indian culture in North, Central and South America. The Kuna people first encountered the Spanish Conquistadors in the early 1500's which caused the Indians to guard their privacy and adopt a position of cultural exclusivity that continues today. Much like the large, Indian tribal culture that populated North America in the 1600's, today the language and cultural distinctions have all but disappeared; in the same manner, the influences of modern civilization have affected the Kuna Indians of San Blas and the islands in the Mulatas Archipelago. The current population of the Kuna is less than 35,000 people where in the 1600's the population numbered over 700,000 people.



*(continued on the next page)*

## —MOLA's continued.....

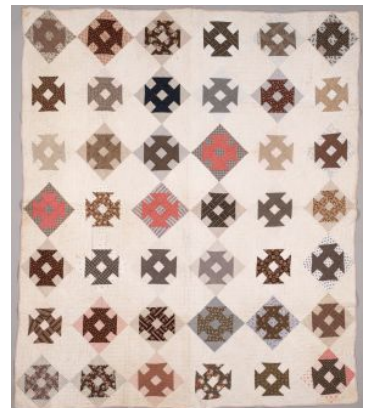
Both collections on exhibit at the Mesquite Arts Center display uniquely different characteristics within the context of the handwork. Mola panels from the collection of Cathy Bradley and Dessie and Nelson Berry were collected for distinct reasons. The viewer can ascertain from the collection that some of the pieces were created for the tourist trade and others were created in observance of some cultural ideology and functionality. Fishing or other island labor such as basket weaving, and images of the Bible, which were first brought to the Kuna people by the missionaries, are all easily recognizable on the mola panels. Kuna women and men sew their own clothing from fabric that has been manufactured on the mainland, but the Kuna women create these intricately sewn mola panels in their leisure time. The mola panels created for tourists are



*Oro De Oreja (Gold of the Ear, or Earring)  
from the Cathy Bradley collection*

distinctive from those that have been created to adorn the clothing actually worn by Kuna women. Collectors prize molas that have been worn by the Kuna women, which are discernable by a number of indicators. Notice the seam lines on the sides of a mola. If it was worn by a Kuna woman you will be able to recognize a sleeve inset. The depiction of birds and the use of fluorescent colors such as green, white and pink generally suggest the mola was created for the tourist trade.

The collections represented in the exhibit at the Mesquite Arts Center come from highly motivated collectors who primarily encourage scholarship and respect for the Kuna people. Each claim an initial interest for molas that dates back to the 1970's, early 80's and only then because of the vibrant colors represented and skill utilized in making the panel. In recent interviews with both collectors, they have revealed a richly detailed account of the passion they have for molas. Ms. Bradley states, "At first I just enjoyed the design, and was drawn to the texture and quality of the stitching. Later, I learned how to judge them as a Kuna woman would, and began to look at them as fine art." When the question was posed, from whom did you learn the most about molas Ms. Berry states, "from Prudence Heffron in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She related stories of the Kuna people, the artisans, their living conditions and she furnished written information about the Indians.



*"Churn Dash" from the Historic  
Mesquite Inc. collection of Lawrence  
family quilts*

She and her husband spent a lot of time living with the Kuna people and on each trip to the islands brought medical and sewing supplies."

For more information about molas and Kuna Indians please read: Molas by Rhoda Auld, first published in 1980 or The Art of Being Kuna, edited by Mari Lyn Salvador, first published in 1997.



For more information about Quilt Mania II and the other 16 institutions participating, go to [www.quiltmania.org](http://www.quiltmania.org). Historic Mesquite Inc. is presenting "25 Lawrence Family Quilts" at the Opal Lawrence Historical Park in Mesquite. To find out more about this exhibit go to [www.historicmesquite.org](http://www.historicmesquite.org) or call 972-216-6468.

Great appreciation to the Mesquite Convention & Visitors Bureau for helping to coordinate and market these exhibits.



*In Performance & Arts Advocacy at the Arts Center*

*in January & February*

**T**

**he Heather and the Rose** will be presented by the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra on January 31st at 7:30p. Brigadoon, music from Braveheart, Comin' thro' the Rye, Loch Lomond and The Wearing of the Green will be featured. Tickets are \$6 to \$12 and available at the door.

Come early and enjoy the traditional Irish songs performed by BEHAN at 6:45p. Traditional Irish pub singing from brothers Bernard "Barney" (guitar & mandolin), Michael (pennywhistle, concertina & fiddle), and Joseph (bodhran & harmonica) Behan along with brother-in-law Joe Morris (bodhran & snare) and grade school buddy Russ George (guitar & bodhran) make up the group BEHAN. Somehow the punk music scene, liturgical music and the Arlington Drum and Bugle corps factor in as well. The MSO and BEHAN perform in the Arts Center Concert Hall.

Call 972-216-8127 for more information.

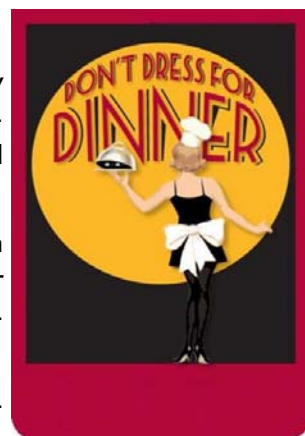


**D**

**on't' Dress for Dinner** will be presented by the Mesquite Community Theatre from February 20 through March 7. Thursday, Friday, Saturday performances are at 8p and Sunday matinees are at 2:30p. Tickets are \$8 to \$12 and call 972-216-8126 for reservations.

Bernard is planning a weekend with his mistress at a quaint country farm house. He has hired a gourmet cook, is packing his wife Jacqueline off to her mother's, and has invited his best friend, Robert, to provide an alibi. It is fool-proof. What could possibly go wrong?

Well...it will be an evening of pratfalls, mistaken identity and hilarious confusion... an evening where anything goes but nothing goes right!



**T**

**exans for the Arts** will present an Arts Advocacy Day in Austin on February 10, 2009. All arts advocates are invited to attend and the cost to register is \$45. To register for the day go to [www.blacktie-dallas.com/revp](http://www.blacktie-dallas.com/revp) and enter event code TFA. The day begins at 9:30a at the Radisson Hotel-Town Lake. Following the welcome is an advocacy workshop presented by HillCo Partners and Kellner Consulting. The keynote speaker at lunch will be Bill Lively. And, following lunch, attendees will make their way to the Capitol for appointments with legislators. At 5p the Irving Arts Center will host a reception for everyone back at the hotel.



TEXANS FOR THE ARTS

For more detailed information please call the Arts Council office at 972-216-6444 or go to [www.texansforthearts.com](http://www.texansforthearts.com).

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MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

1527 N. Galloway  
Mesquite, TX 75141

972-216-6444

## The MJRE

with Sandra Kaye, Arlington Jones and Curt Bradshaw will be presented by the Mesquite Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts on March 6 at 7:30p., FREE!



The concert last year was standing room only! For other information call the Arts Council at 972-216-6444.

Join the Mesquite Arts Council and become the first to know about upcoming events, artist receptions and performances at the Mesquite Arts Center

Patron	\$25-\$49	Benefactor	\$250-\$499
Contributor	\$50-\$99	Investor	\$500-\$1,999
ArtsPartner	\$100-\$249	Principal	\$2,000 or more

Mesquite Arts Council-1527 N. Galloway, Mesquite, TX 75149  
972-216-6444 or [www.mesquiteartscenter.org](http://www.mesquiteartscenter.org)

## Courtyard COLORS

### FEBRUARY

- 1-3/15 MOLA'S: from the Kuna Indians of Panama & Colombia are presented by the Mesquite Arts Council in the Main Gallery FREE!
- 9 The "Monthly Paint-In" begins at 10a. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. FREE!
- 9 Mesquite Creative Arts Club meeting begins at 7p.FREE!
- 9-11 Mesquite Community Theatre will hold auditions for To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday from 7-9p in the Black Box Theatre. Call 972-216-8126.
- 20-3/7 "Don't Dress for Dinner" will be presented by the Mesquite Community Theatre in the Black Box Theatre.

All nonprofit arts organizations are encouraged to apply for the Mesquite Arts Council Local Cultural Grants Program. Matching funds from \$1,000 to \$5,000 are available to organizations who qualify. The application deadline is February 1st. To schedule an appointment please call 972-216-6444. To download the application form go to [www.mesquiteartscenter.org](http://www.mesquiteartscenter.org).



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation  
deserves great art.

First State Bank