



Iconic Jewelry Designer Tony Duquette to be focus of lecture at Palm Springs Art Museum

Lecture entitled "Talismans of Power" will be followed by Trunk Show featuring interesting hand-made jewelry and accessories

January 13, 2012 – The Museum Associates Council of the Palm Springs Art Museum will present a lecture on American design icon Tony Duquette. Focusing on the eclectic, romantic, and ethnic styling of his jewelry creations, lecturer Jo Lauria will present *Talismans of Power*, a fascinating journey into the exotic and ornamental world of Duquette and his spectacular works of jewelry art on January 23 at 10:30 a.m. in the museum's Annenberg Theater. Following the lecture, the museum will offer a luncheon and trunk show, providing attendees the opportunity to purchase exquisite hand-made collections from acclaimed Studio Craft artists who will offer one-of-a-kind jewelry and accessories. Reservations for this enriching lecture and luncheon can be made by calling the Box Office at 760-325-4490. Tickets are \$65 per person (includes lecture, trunk show and luncheon) or \$35 (lecture and trunk show only).

About Tony Duquette

Tony Duquette (1914 –1999) was an artist, jewelry designer, and costume and set designer for stage and film. A native of Los Angeles, Duquette became an internationally acclaimed artist and designer, known for his lavish sets and intricate jewelry designs.



Duquette studied design and theater at the prestigious Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles and the Yale School of the Theatre. He was discovered by Lady Elsie de Wolfe Mendl, an international arbiter of taste, who helped established him as one of the leading designers in Los Angeles. He began working increasingly for films, creating beautiful costumes and settings for many Metro Goldwyn Mayer productions for the great producer, Arthur Freed and the celebrated director, Vincente Minnelli.

He achieved success designing costumes and settings for the movies, interiors for Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers, jewelry and special furnishings for Lady Mendl, as well as numerous night clubs and public places. , Duquette was the first American artist to have been asked to present his works at the Pavilion de Marsan of the Louvre Museum, Paris, where he was later honored with a one man show. He also received jewelry design commissions from the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and industrialist Commandant Paul Louis Weiller,

Duquette has had his stunning works displayed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the M.H. de Young Museum and Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, The California Museum of Science and Industry and Municipal Art Gallery in Los Angeles, The El Paso Museum of Art, The Santa Barbara Museum of Art, The Museum of the City of New York, and has had one man exhibitions in Dallas, Chicago, Rio de Janeiro and Phoenix, Arizona.

Jewelry Design

Together with Hutton Wilkinson, Duquette designed incredible jewelry pieces including magnificent one-of-a-kind necklaces, brooches, bracelets, and rings. Clients included the Duchess of Windsor, Liza Minnelli, Elsie de Wolfe, and his works instantly became highly desirable collector's items and are often found in museums and private collections around the world. With a firm belief that "more is more," Duquette designed pieces set in 18-karat gold, dripping with precious and semiprecious stones that recall the splendors of the great courts of Renaissance kings, Chinese emperors, and maharajas.

About Jo Lauria

Lecturer Jo Lauria is an independent curator and an art and design historian, with a degree in art history from Yale University and in studio art from Otis College of Art and Design. She was decorative arts curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), specializing in modern and contemporary decorative arts, craft, and design. She has published extensively, organized numerous exhibitions, and produced and directed multimedia presentations and documentary films. In 2005, she co-organized the traveling exhibition *Ruth Duckworth—Modernist Sculptor* and wrote the accompanying monograph. In the same year, she coauthored with Suzanne Baizerman, *California Design: The Legacy of West Coast Craft and Style*, a design survey for Chronicle Books assessing the dynamic contributions California designers made to the field as charted in the exhibition series California Design. Lauria served as chief curator of the exhibition *CRAFT IN AMERICA: Expanding Traditions*, a nationally touring show that was hosted by seven American museums from April 2007 to May 2009.

Trunk show artists that will be showcasing their works include:



Julie Simpson – Textile designer and painter Simpson takes hand-woven designs to a new level. She is fascinated with pattern making and color, and weaves innovative, elegant one-of-a-kind wearable art on multi-harness floor looms. Multiple layers are designed in the weave structure, giving each piece a sculptural quality.

Barbara DeJounge - A former educator and art teacher, DeJounge continually experiments with textiles and tradition-breaking design. Her process of slashing, punching and otherwise distressing wool before felting and dyeing is in the vanguard of fashion design. Her fun and upbeat creations include vests, wraps and scarves cleverly consisting of multiple cuffed sleeves, dresses and skirts with gloves serving as pockets.



Margaret McLane – A “Master Metalworking” at the College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland, CA, McLane’s jewelry wins recognition at juried shows through her unique combination of beads and fibers. Her works combine beads and antique stones from around the world that find their way into woven neck pieces and amulets. Each creation is unusual and unique.

Joe Viboonvirlyawong – Owner of Vilawon Fine Jewelry, Viboonvirlyawong learned his extraordinary techniques and design skills at The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles. His vision that jewelry is not just a mere accessory; it is art that makes a statement of personality.



About the Palm Springs Art Museum

The Palm Springs Art Museum's main facility is located in downtown Palm Springs in a 150,000 square foot architecturally-significant building and features compelling exhibitions and a robust permanent collection of modern, contemporary, Western and Native American, Mesoamerican and glass art in 28 spacious galleries and in its two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum will open a new facility in Palm Desert in Spring, 2012 and an architecture and design center in Palm Springs in Spring, 2103. For more information, call 760-322.4800 or visit www.psmuseum.org.