



In the current issue of *ArtLetter*, I described a recent Crocker experience. This summer, my wife, Marcy, and I stopped by the Museum on a Wednesday morning. As we entered Friedman Court we noticed a group of toddlers with their caregivers—primarily mothers—gathered together talking and laughing. A Museum staff member greeted them, and they all marched off together with great purpose and excitement.

Looking forward to seeing world class art right here in Sacramento, we headed off to visit the Impressionist exhibitions. We were enthralled with the beautiful paintings of Franz Bischoff, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, and Lilla Cabot Perry just to name a few. We were struck by the beauty of the art, and by having the opportunity to experience it in such a magnificent space with other art lovers.

As we left the exhibition gallery and headed around the corner to see some of our favorites from the Crocker's collection, we again came across the group of toddlers and their caregivers. We were delighted to see them in the gallery sitting on colorful mats and looking up at a work of art. As I watched them clapping their hands and enthusiastically engaging in an art experience with the same artwork that I appreciate, I was struck by just how special the Crocker is.

We are an art museum that is creating and nurturing art lovers of all ages. We provide experiences that appeal to so many different people and offer experiences that fit such a broad range of abilities and tastes. We are the place to see the finest art in this region, and we are developing a new generation who will keep the legacy moving forward.

As the year comes to a close, I urge you to make a special gift to the Museum's annual fund in support of family experiences.

From guided tours of the permanent collection to art classes—there is something for every type of family at the Crocker. Your gift will help fund many important programs including:

- *Wee Wednesday* programs that provide a gallery-based art experience for children ages three to five;
- *Lunch & Learn* tours and talks that engage adult visitors in in-depth conversations about a work of art;

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- *Drop, Yak, Splat! A Museum Adventure for Families* that provides a memorable gallery activity for families and children of all ages; and
- *Art Appetizers*, a twice a month tour that highlights the Museum's most recent exhibitions.

Would you please join me in our efforts to support great experiences at the Crocker? All levels of gifts make a difference and **those at the \$150 level or higher will be listed on our annual donor wall in Friedman Court and in ArtLetter.** Those who donate \$1,000 or more by December 31, 2011 will be invited to a special exhibit opening and tour.

Please send your gift today by mailing the enclosed reply form. Online donations are also accepted at crockerartmuseum.org. Just click on the "**Donate Now**" button on our home page. You can also make your donation over the phone by calling (916) 808-7843.

I can't wait for the day when I have grandchildren to bring to the Crocker. In the meantime, my young adult children will visit whenever they are in town, and my wife and I will look forward to sharing the Museum's galleries and our favorite artworks with some of the area's youngest art lovers!

Thank you for your consideration,



Steve Mills, President

Crocker Art Museum Association

P.S. It is only through our combined efforts that we can reach our goal. **Please make a gift at the \$1,000 level by December 31, 2011 and join us for a very special tour of an upcoming exhibition.**