



OCCURRENCES

A NEWSLETTER DEVOTED TO THE DOEL REED CENTER FOR THE ARTS

MARTHA'S CLOTHING ESSENTIAL PART OF REED ESTATE

SUMMER 2012



Alumna Heather Chancellor, who studied at the Doel Reed Center for the Arts in 2009, models Martha of Taos Originals from Neal and Lora Buck's collection.



MARTHA REED'S estate gift to OSU included much more than the land and buildings now known as the Doel Reed Center for the Arts. Among the treasures is her collection of signature clothing.

Martha popularized the Southwestern women's fashion of Navajo broomstick skirts paired with traditional velvet or cotton blouses. For more than 38 years, she owned and operated Martha of Taos, where she created and sold the clothing and accessories she made iconic. She proudly spoke about at least two of her skirts being worn to White House functions, making a velvet shirt for Raymond Burr, and Calvin Klein describing an ivory velvet wedding dress as "the most beautiful dress he had ever seen."

OSU alumni Neal and Lora Buck, members of the Doel Reed Center for the Arts Committee, greatly appreciate the Reeds' artistic talents. Their strong affection for Martha grew out of lively conversations during visits they enjoyed with her during her later years, and inspired them to include Martha of Taos Originals in their collection.

"These dresses transcend time," says Lora Buck. "Fifty years after they were crafted, they have relevance to contemporary style."

Dr. Mary Ruppert-Stroescu, assistant professor of apparel design and textile science at OSU, visited the Reed property in the spring to inventory the 383 garments Martha owned at the time of her passing in December 2010. It was the first step in the process of preserving these pieces of history.

"It was kind of surreal to go through Martha Reed's wardrobe, having read so many stories about her, but never having met the actual person," Ruppert-Stroescu says. "Clothing, especially for someone who designs and makes it, is a special possession, and can reflect a story about the person who assembles diverse pieces into a wardrobe."

One of the professor's research areas is the role, origin, function and development of creativity. For her, Martha's clothing is a rich source of scholarly interest. She plans to research the history of Martha and her clothing line, including influences, clients and techniques.

continued...

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P.O. Box 1749 / Stillwater, OK 74076-1749

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the continuing support of our generous donors and the Oklahoma State University administration, I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress on several fronts in the past six months at the Doel Reed Center for the Arts. The structural integrity of all three buildings on the historic Reed property has been assured. The portal and roof of Martha Reed's home were rebuilt completely; the roofs of the studio and Doel and Jane's house were also replaced; and the adobe foundations of both structures have been repaired. We have taken measures to ensure that the buildings remain in good condition for years.

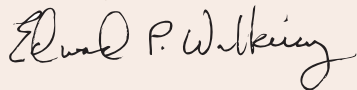
In addition, we have initiated the development of plans for restoring the interiors of the buildings and the grounds surrounding them, with the goals of turning Martha's home into the formal "center" of the Center, the studio into a museum and working studio, the "parents' house" into a residence for visiting artists and scholars, and the outdoor areas into spaces where people can interact, find inspiration, or simply enjoy the magnificent views.

Furthermore, we have taken steps to further memorialize the Reeds and their work and to preserve their legacies. Enlisting the expertise of the faculty and staff of Edmon Low Library, we have established archives to house the family's papers and photographs, and with the assistance of members of our Department of Design, Housing and Merchandising, we have begun the process of properly storing Martha's distinctive garments and documenting her contribution to fashion.

On the academic front, we are offering an expanded slate of summer classes in Taos, including courses in drawing, oral history, and Southwest furniture design as well as our first continuing education class, "New Mexico Modernism." Soon we plan to offer additional lifelong-learner classes taught by distinguished emeriti faculty throughout the year.

In short, I am quite proud of what we have accomplished in the last half year with the help of many friends in Oklahoma, New Mexico and elsewhere, and I envision similar progress in the coming months.

Sincerely,



EDWARD P. WALKIEWICZ
Director and Professor Emeritus of English,
Doel Reed Center for the Arts



"Elements of the Past"

Brenda Harris Donates Artwork

As the Doel Reed Center for the Arts builds its art collection, many great stories emerge. For example, Brenda Falconer Harris recently donated an aquatint, "Elements of the Past," print No. 6 of 25, to the collection. Harris' mother, Patricia Moore Falconer Cantrell, worked as Reed's secretary from fall 1950 to summer 1951. After the school year ended, Reed personally paid her to spend two more weeks helping him prepare for various exhibitions. At the end of that period, he surprised her with the print as a gift. Harris gave the print to the Center as an expression of her family's gratitude. If you are interested in sharing your own collection of Reed stories and pieces with the Center, please let us know.

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS **GOAL:** \$1,000/yr or \$25,000 endowment

VISITING ARTIST OR SCHOLAR OR WRITER/POET **GOAL:** \$5,000/yr or \$100,000 endowment

DOEL REED CENTER FOR THE ARTS **GOAL:** \$1M property endowment

PROGRAM FUND **GOAL:** \$50,000/yr

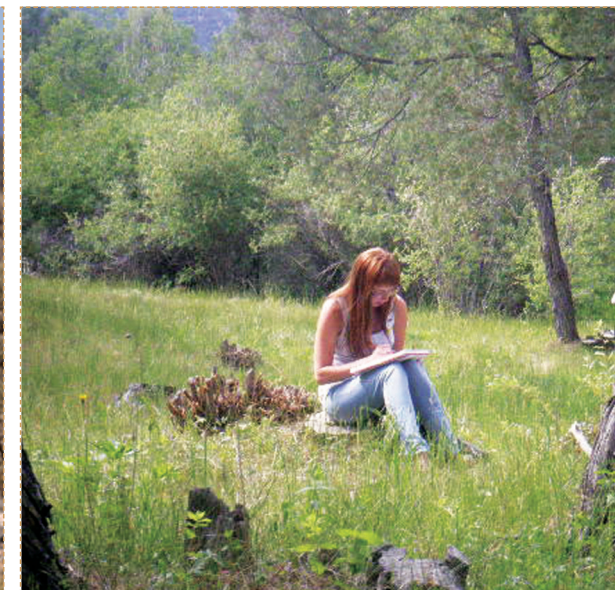
Make A Gift Today! To make a gift or get additional information on giving opportunities, visit OSUgiving.com/DoelReed.

Martha Reed's story continued...

"At this time, it is clear to me that Martha Reed was a woman of influence in Taos, that she understood the beauty and unique capabilities of the Native Americans, and that she was able to translate a simple, yet elegant, style into timeless pieces that remain influential today," Ruppert-Stroescu says. "She was able to integrate the beauty of the Southwestern tradition into fashions worn by trendsetters from the national limelight. The most distinct feature of the Martha of Taos legacy is nested in the unique techniques for pleating and embellishment that Martha perfected with the craftswomen from the Pueblo."

She adds, "The garments I saw had relatively simple shapes and were cut in simple fabrics; either cotton calico, gauze, or velvet. By incorporating the skill and artistry of Native Americans and other ethnic groups into the signature looks, she gave her designs a unique and precious character."

Perhaps it was Martha's own unique personality that led her to pioneer an iconic look. One of the Doel Reed Center for the Arts' top priorities is preserving the family's legacy. Maintaining, studying and displaying their artistic output are key to that effort.



SUMMER 2012: CLASS LIST

OSU SUMMER SESSION 2 | JUNE 11-22

TAOS | ARTIST'S SKETCHBOOK

Students with varying degrees of drawing skill will learn by sketching scenic and historic outdoor spaces in the Taos area.

OSU SUMMER SESSION 4 | JULY 9-20

SOUTHWEST INDIGENOUS FURNITURE ART

Students will study the indigenous and ethnic arts, architecture, furnishings and folklore of New Mexico.

ORAL HISTORY & ART IN TAOS

This class will introduce students to the practice of oral history, from developing questions to conducting interview sessions with Taos artist.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASS | JULY 9-14

NEW MEXICO MODERNISM

Participants in this non-credit course will study literary works by some of the writers who, together with their contemporaries, created a unique "New Mexico Modernism." Visits to Taos museums and historical sites will enrich the experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DOEL REED CENTER FOR THE ARTS OR GIVING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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