



GEMSTONE CARVINGS:

THE MASTERWORKS OF HAROLD VAN PELT

AGATE RHYTON
Harold Van Pelt

Carved Agate drinking vessel with gold capped nose with a hole to restrict the flow of liquid.

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BOWERS MUSEUM PRESENTS GEMSTONE CARVINGS: THE MASTERWORKS OF HAROLD VAN PELT

PREMIERE EXHIBIT OF ARTIST'S LIFE'S WORK OPENS JULY 17, 2010

SANTA ANA, CA— For thousands of years, man has enjoyed the art of stone carving, also known as lapidary. Five thousand years ago, the Chinese began carving jade into mythical animals, and later the tradition of stone carving was carried on by the Greeks, Romans, and other cultures around Europe.

In more recent times, the art of the legendary Carl Faberge has stood out. The tradition of stone carving exists in China today with massive amounts of jade and other materials being carved in distinctly Asian styles. Western styles of Faberge are much more limited with most of the work coming from a small pair of villages in Germany known as Idar-Oberstein.

The fine art of stone carving is being quietly carried out by one individual here in the United States -- Harold Van Pelt. On July 17, the Bowers Museum presents the premiere exhibition of his life's work in *Gemstone Carvings: Masterworks by Harold Van Pelt*. The exhibit is on view through May 31, 2011.

Van Pelt and his wife Erica are among the finest gem photographers in the world today, yet few people realize that Mr. Van Pelt has been pursuing another art -- the art of stone carving -- for almost 40 years. *Gemstone Carvings: Masterworks by Harold Van Pelt* is the first time

— more —

BOWERS MUSEUM

2002 North Main Street
Santa Ana, California 92706

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that anyone has ever had the opportunity to see the full body of Van Pelt's work in one place.

All of Mr. Van Pelt's work is done in quartz, or rock crystal, or agate, a banded variety of quartz -- the same materials used by gem carvers since ancient times due to its beauty, durability, and availability. Hundreds of hours go into working the stone down to paper-thin walls, bringing out the gorgeous natural quality and colors of the agate and the rock crystal the transparency of glass.

One of the most fascinating pieces in the exhibit is a faceted egg, which is different from all others because this egg is hollow and the walls are paper thin.

TICKET AND TOUR INFORMATION

Tickets: www.Bowers.org / 714-567-3695

Group Tours: grouptours@bowers.org / 714.567.3680

School Tours: schooltours@bowers.org / 714.567.3680

Membership: membership@bowers.org / 714.567.3630

ABOUT BOWERS MUSEUM

Bowers Museum is an internationally-known institution of art and culture dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition of fine arts from around the world. To achieve its mission to "enrich lives through the world's finest arts and cultures," the Bowers offers exhibitions, lectures, art classes, travel programs, children's art and music education programs, and other community programs. Its guiding philosophy is to help people learn about other cultures through their arts, and offer a greater understanding of ourselves and appreciation of the world in which we live. The museum's permanent collection is particularly strong in the areas of African, South Pacific, Asian, Native American, Pre-Columbian art, and California plein-air painting. The Bowers has organized many culturally significant exhibitions, including *Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor*, *Secret World of the Forbidden City*, *Dead Sea Scrolls*, *Egyptian Treasures of The British Museum*, and *Tibet: Treasures from the Roof of the World*.

In addition to presenting acclaimed art exhibitions, the Bowers Kidseum, located two blocks south of the main museum, offers multi-faceted art and cultural educational experiences for young

— more —

children, their families, and the community. Kidseum is dedicated to providing children a fun environment where imagination and creativity are not only encouraged, but nurtured.

LOCATION, HOURS, AND ADMISSION

Bowers Museum is located at 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706.

Open hours are Tuesday–Sunday, 10 am–4 pm.

Admission is \$12 adults; \$9 students and seniors over 62; and children under 6 are free.

For more information, call 714.567.3600 or log on to www.bowers.org.

Bowers Museum and Kidseum are closed on Mondays, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

BOWERS KIDSEUM

Located at 1802 North Main Street Santa Ana, CA 92706.

Open hours are Tuesday–Friday, 10 am–3 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–4 pm.

Admission is \$6 adults and children 3 and up; and kids under 3 are free.

For more information, call 714.480.1520 or visit www.bowers.org.

Group and school tour info: grouptours@bowers.org | schooltours@bowers.org | 714.567.3680.

Membership info: membership@bowers.org | 714.567.3639.

FREE DAYS

Thank you to The Target Corporation for sponsoring free admission to the Bowers Museum on Target Free First Sundays and to the Nicholas Endowment for sponsoring our monthly Family Festivals. Bowers also offers free general admission to Santa Ana residents with proof of residency on the third Tuesday of each month through a generous donation in memory of Dorothy Goerl.