On July 1, I will assume a different role within the Utah Museum of Fine Arts so I can attend graduate school. The plan looking forward will be that Ali Monjar, our very talented Tour Coordinator, will transition into the new job of Docent & Tour Coordinator working 32 hours a week while I will be the Volunteer Coordinator and work 8 hours a week. Ali will handle all the day-to-day needs of the UMFA docents while I will act as the central coordinator for all UMFA volunteers and the supervisor for the Program Volunteers. This arrangement will allow for a long transition as Ali becomes familiar with her new role coordinating Docent Training and Enrichment, Steering Committee, Weekend Docents and Daily Team Docents. In July of 2013, Ali’s position will then become a 40 hour a week position that will be responsible for the Volunteer, Docent and Tour Programs. At this point I will leave the UMFA.

If you have any questions about the upcoming change do not hesitate to ask Virginia, Jenny, Ali or me. We will all work together to make this a happy and successful change. Thank you for all your support and kindness,

The University of Utah
Marcia and John Price Museum Building
410 Campus Center Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0350

May 12, 12:30 pm, Monthly Meeting: Round Robin with Megan Hallen, Nancy Rigby and Jody Andes.
May 19, 1 pm, Steering Committee Meeting
May 21, Third Saturday: Backdrops. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

June 8, 7:00pm Film: Spiral Jetty It’s movie night at the UMFA! Enjoy a screening of Robert Smithson’s Spiral Jetty, UMFA Auditorium.
June 9, 6:30 pm, Recognition Event for UMFA Volunteers & Docents. RSVP to Ali Monjar, 801.581.3580.
June 16, 6:00pm, Palette to Palate: Art and Wine Class, Experience Europe from palette to palate through an evening of art, wine, and culture. This adult class taught by Laura Hurtado and Michael Roussin, we will begin by exploring the continent’s artistic palette through a guided tour of key pieces from the Utah Museum of Fine Arts’ collection of European art, including special treasures that have never been on public view. Next we’ll indulge our tasting palates with the rich flavors and aromatic nuances of six select European wines. The evening will conclude with a discussion on the intriguing connections between European art and wine. Please bring a photo ID that indicates your age. This class is offered through U of U Lifelong Learning. The cost is $39 + $25 special fee, which covers all tastings and light appetizers. UMFA members pay $36 plus the special fee; ask for section 002. Go to http://continue.utah.edu/lifelong or call 801.587.5432 to register.
June 18, 1 pm, Third Saturday: Jigsaw Puzzles. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
June 23-26, 11:30am to 9:00pm, UMFA in the Kids Art Yard at the Utah Arts Festival. Charcoal Drawing. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, 3 hour shifts.

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Erin Hogan, Director of Public Affairs at the Art Institute of Chicago, had no real idea of where she was going but was in search of the monum...ons of American land art. She took off in her Volkswagen Jetta, headed west from Chicago, and in spite of misadventures, drove to her first destination, Robert Smithson’s Spiral Jetty. The description of her experience is well worth reading in order to understand the impact Spiral Jetty has on those viewers intrepid enough to make the journey. Photographs indicate that the Jetty is monumental. She found the Jetty space much smaller than expected, but overwhelming, deeply inspiring and perfect.

Flushed with the success of her first venture, Hogan set out to find Nancy Holt’s Sun Tunnels. Holt was married to Robert Smithson and both were captivated by the desert landscape of the West. They wished to utilize some small parcel of it to make personal artistic statements. In 1976, Holt positioned four giant concrete tubes in the area of Utah’s Bonneville Salt Flats. The tubes were positioned so that at dawn and sunset on the summer and winter solstices, the sun rises and sets in alignment with the tubes. The tubes perfectly frame the sun.

Looking for the tunnels and driving around the Salt Flats proved to be an adventure Hogan could never have anticipated. She ended up at the Saddle Sore Bar in Montello, Nevada, learning off-beat history of a tiny western town. Other adventures were more successful. The book offers descriptions of James Turrell’s Rodeo Crater and Michael Heizer’s Double Negative and Donald Judd’s Contemporary Art Mecca at Marfa, Texas. As well as the land art formation Hogan most want to visit, Spiral Jetty.

In 1977, Walter DeMaria, drummer, composer and sculptor, obtained land and permission to form an installation in a remote giant land bowl ranged by mountains. After a long year’s work, he produced a grid measuring one mile by one kilometer with identical steel poles stuck in the ground at regular intervals and called it Lightning Fields. Other adventures were more successful. The book offers descriptions of James Turrell’s Rodeo Crater, Michael Heizer’s Double Negative and Donald Judd’s Contemporary Art Mecca at Marfa, Texas. As well as the land art formation Hogan most want to visit, Spiral Jetty.

Utah is inseparable from its natural beauty. The art of the West has always been inspired by the land, the climate, the people, the history and the culture. Utah is a land of epic dimensions, a land where the spirit of the West lives on. Utah is a land of contrast, where the towering mountains meet the vast deserts.

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