

Meeting of the Masters

F.E.I. Brings Artists Together

The first annual Meeting of the Masters™, held Oct. 25 and 26 at the Vero Beach Museum of Art in Vero Beach Fla., has set the pace for years to come.

From the onset, the level of energy behind the planning and preparation was sky high. The very idea of bringing together Faux Effects International Inc.'s network of talented artisans and their most accomplished students proved to be inspired.

From all over the United States, these creative people came to the Vero Beach Museum of Art to show and share their talents with the nation's most acknowledged designers, architects and builders as well as the public.

Within the two days set aside for this educational and inspirational event, formal lectures were conducted in the museum's auditorium, featuring the knowledge of some of the world's finest decorative finishers and instructors in the field.

The schedule of lectures was as follows:

Saturday, Oct. 25

11 A.M. George Zaffle of Zaffle Painting Studios in Lake Tahoe gave his very popular slide-show presentation of "Itinerant American Artists in the American West." This was a visual feast of the bicycle travels of Larry Boyce, George Zaffle and their crew, painting grand ceilings in fabu-



Pierre Finkelstein drew an attentive group for his faux wood and marble demonstrations.

lous new and historic homes and buildings of the West.

1 P.M. Bob Marx of The Finishing School in New York gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of faux finishing dating back 25 years.

2 P.M. Caroline Woldenberg of The Finishing School in Atlanta also gave a PowerPoint presentation on faux finishing

as a way to correct architectural flaws. **3 P.M.** Kelly S. King of Faux Finish Institute in Omaha, Denver and



Sean Crosby demonstrates his talents.



Booths at the Meeting of the Minds showed incredible works of art.

Seattle took the stage with an insightful demonstration and discussion on Venetian Gem Plasters.

4 P.M. Nicola Vigni of Vigni Studios in San Antonio gave a slide show presentation on the Art and History of Grisaille and Trompe L'oeil.

5 P.M. Raymond Sandor, president and founder of Faux Effects International Inc., closed the first day with an inspirational speech on the history and future of F.E.I. and the world of faux and decorative finishing from F.E.I.'s perspective.

The evening of the 25th consisted of dinner, dancing and mingling with these amazing individuals on a more personal level. Bob Marx entertained the crowd by getting on stage with the band and playing his saxophone until the night was over.

Sunday, Oct. 26

11 A.M. Pedro Oviedo of Arte Faux Decorative Finishing energetically opened the day with a slide show presentation on Arte Faux's progress since discovering Faux Effects International faux finishing products.

12 P.M. Bob Hoppe from Faux Masters Studios in California gave an in-depth lecture geared toward the professional trade, "Decorative Finishing For Your Market."

1 P.M. Cynthia Borman of Classical Decorative Arts in Chicago gave a beautiful photographic depiction of the Roman Villa Centered around Pompeii and Herculaneum A.D. 79.

2 P.M. Deb Drager of D2 Studios in Wichita led a colorful PowerPoint presentation on the topic, "Eye-to-Eye Strategies for Better Business"

3 P.M. Melanie Royals of Royal Design Studios in California introduced and demonstrated her newest stencil line "Modello" Stencils.

4 P.M. Gary Lord of Prismatic Studios in Ohio finished the day with a discussion of his new book, "It's

Faux Easy," 30 easy-to-do decorative finishes.

While the lectures were taking place in the auditorium, each participant's booth was open to the public



A man of many talents, Bob Marx plays the sax.



Raymond Sandor, F.E.I. president and founder, offers words of inspiration.

with incredible works of art on display. Not only was the artwork displayed, but it was also demonstrated. As attendees walked from booth to booth, they witnessed some of the most proficient artisans creating the most astounding pieces right before their very eyes.

Nicola Vigni had his hands in several projects, one of which was a giant 10-by-10-foot mural, which he collaborated on with Sean Crosby of The Finishing School. Pierre Finkelstein's booth was swarming with interested on-lookers as he created fantastic faux wood and marble. Carol Kemery of

The Finishing School explained new ways of applying gold leafing, as Randy Ingram and Brian Townsend of Classical Art Studios in New Jersey showed how FauxColors work like oils in the fine art aspect of decorative finishing.

Raymond Sandor and Jane Koehler, president and vice president of F.E.I. respectively, presented certificates of participation to each guest and offered a heart-felt thanks to all who made the Meeting of the Masters such a resounding success.

F.E.I.'s general manager, Todd VanHouten and event coordinator Cat



Nicola Vigni had his hands in several projects during the two-day gathering.

Faust led the grand finale by raffling off the popular Meeting of the Masters T-shirts that were worn by the hard-working M.O.T.M. volunteers.

Then came the grand prize: a decorative finishing class of choice at the school of choice anywhere in the country within the F.E.I. networks. The winner also received a gift certificate for \$250 worth of products to be used after having taken the class. Gary Peterson of California was the recipient of this valuable gift.

It was agreed that the first annual Meeting of the Masters™ was a tremendous opportunity for all those who attended and participated, and will be looked forward to each year as an inspiration for decorative finishers everywhere. **TOP**