

# INSIDE ARTS

SPRING 2011

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTERS

## *Leading the way*



### **ALSO INSIDE**

- Inspired by "outside arts."
- Are your volunteers marching ahead?
- Two top leaders speak on service and succession.

# INSIDE ARTS

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Members stepped onto the red carpet at the APAP|NYC 2012 photo booth. Turns out, there's a little performing arts in each of us.

“When we get overwhelmed on one side of our life, we can turn to another side of our life and get renewed.”

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THIS PAGE: Alice and Halsey North are leaders in the field – including when it comes to their collection of ceramics.



## UNITING CREATIVE SPARKS

**Halsey and Alice North** are best known for their work as The North Group, which assists nonprofit performing arts centers and theaters in raising capital and operating funds, strengthening boards and implementing long-term planning. They are also well known for their New York City restaurant map, which they provide each year to APAP|NYC attendees staying near the conference headquarters in midtown Manhattan. (The map is online all year long.) The Norths have another passion outside of the performing arts and restaurants: contemporary Japanese sculptural ceramics. Since their first visit to Japan together in 1986, they have

been collecting the work of Japanese ceramic artists. Their collection is considerable and impressive. Pieces have been exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Japan Society in New York City, and the couple has lectured at arts centers across the country. The ceramics are housed in their midtown apartment, which is also where they work together, and where *Inside Arts* caught up with Halsey North to talk about how living with the visual arts has an impact on their work in the performing arts. The two are a unit, and although Alice North was not on the phone, she was in the background – doing business with a client.

Halsey and Alice North



This is the first in our new regular feature Outside Arts. Do you know a performing arts professional who has a unique hobby or interest outside the performing arts? We want to know! Please email suggestions to: [insidearts@artspresenters.org](mailto:insidearts@artspresenters.org).



Alice North explains *Set of 22 Nesting Bowls* by YAGI Akira. The works were part of an exhibition at the Japan Society in New York City.



Brilliance and Mystery (*Kakugenki*), 1997 by WADA Morihiro, 1944-2008 Halsey and Alice North Collection



Pineapple Box, 1986 by MISHIMA Kimiyo, b. 1932 Halsey and Alice North Collection



La Prière (The Prayer), 2004 by MATSUDA Yuriko, b. 1943 Halsey and Alice North Collection

**You've been listed among the country's top 100 collectors - and among *the world's* top 200 collectors. Wow.**

That's a little intimidating.

**That's one way to look at it. Impressive is another.**

We have a very focused passion. We've been doing it for a long time. It's the focus that has allowed us to put together a collection that is unique.

**What draws you to this particular style of ceramics?**

The discipline and the creativity that is built on knowledge that can fulfill the artistic vision. The Japanese artists are stringent in their respect for technique and the discipline of the making. When they unite that with the creative spark, the work becomes magical. We find that very compelling.

**What is it like for you to live with art in your home?**

We literally get up in the morning and look around and say: *Oh, my God, we can't believe we live here.* When the sun is coming through the windows, and it's warm, and we're looking around seeing how the light hits the work, it's a wonderland. We enjoy the work. It's embracing, and it gives us energy.

**How does having this art inform the work you do in the performing arts?**

It's a release. It's a refreshment. It gives us another focus, another fulfillment. When we get overwhelmed on one side of our life, we can turn to another side of our life and get renewed. The work we do everyday also gives us great joy, but it's a different kind of joy.

Shell Vessel '99, 1999 by KOIKE Shoko, b. 1943 Halsey and Alice North Collection

**What is the value of stepping away from the performing arts to pursue another passion?**

We work with dozens if not hundreds of staff members a year across our field. Our field tends to overwork. Sixty to 80 hours a week is not uncommon. If you don't get a break from that, you burn out. You need something to refresh your brain and give you energy. By having a break from the business, you always have something to look forward to or get back to.

