

## THE WELLS GROUP FINE ARTS

Wendy Wells Jackson, Fine Arts Advisor & Appraiser



WENDY WELLS JACKSON

### *The Consultant*

*Wendy Wells Jackson is an arts advisor who assists corporations and government agencies to develop art collections and coordinate art programs. For the last 12 years she has been involved in the arts in Portland, most recently as an advisor to Mentor Graphics. Wells Jackson is the former public arts manager of the Metropolitan Arts Commission and coordinated the installation of Portlandia.*

#### **What kind of corporations are collecting in Portland?**

“There’s no set formula as to who is collecting. Generally, I’d say banks, law firms, high-tech companies and hospitals seem to be consistent in wanting to promote art as part of their environment. It’s not so much a company in a particular field as a company with an attitude.

“I think some of the companies that have been particularly consistent are Mentor Graphics, Kaiser Hospital, Security Pacific Bank, Stoel Rives Bowley Jones & Grey, Management Compensation Group, Bonneville Power — there are others, too.”

#### **What’s the trend in corporate collecting in Portland?**

“It varies considerably. There’s the mainstream representational art, but I think people are moving away from that and developing into being able to look at other things, such as mixed-media art. They are beginning to see that they can buy works in glass or wood — go beyond the basic landscape on paper, which I find exciting.

“Some corporations are talking to me about buying emerging artists. We have a lot of wonderful young artists who are not fully recognized yet. Very often, companies become interested because they can watch the artist’s career and their works are more affordable.

“Maybe instead of choosing something that goes over the sofa, corporations would choose a sculpture that represents a particular expressionist or figurative idea. I’ve seen that, and I think it’s exciting. They don’t mind if there’s a little controversy. This is an important development.

“Mentor Graphics really went out on a limb with a few pieces that generated some real controversy in the company, and I think everyone has realized what a valuable exercise it has been to discuss art, to be able to get excited about art even if you don’t agree with it. You’re out there discussing ideas.”

#### **How have things changed since you first became involved in corporate collecting?**

“When I first started doing this with Arlene Schnitzer 12 years ago, people talked more in terms of decoration — when they moved to a new office and needed to fill the space. That still goes on, but during the last 12 years, corporations have also been looking at getting a good collection.

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COMMISSIONED WORK — Art consultant Wendy Wells stands before 17-foot specially commissioned ceramic sculpture by Pendleton artist Betty Feves in Ragen, Roberts and O'Scannlain law firm. Work employs local color with Mount St. Helens ash used as glaze on part of piece.

Caption above: COMMISSIONED WORK - Art consultant Wendy Wells stands before 17-foot specially commissioned ceramic sculpture by Pendleton artist Betty Feves in Ragen, Roberts and O'Scannlain law firm. Work employs local color with Mount St. Helens ash used as glaze on part of piece.