

Now on DVD: Popular Documentaries on Stuart and the Making of the Historical Figures®

There is no better way to learn about George Stuart and his work than to view the two documentaries produced and directed by C. Ewing McCartney of Studio 203 in Ojai. The new DVDs are direct copies of the popular VHS versions first introduced by Ms. McCartney in 1991.

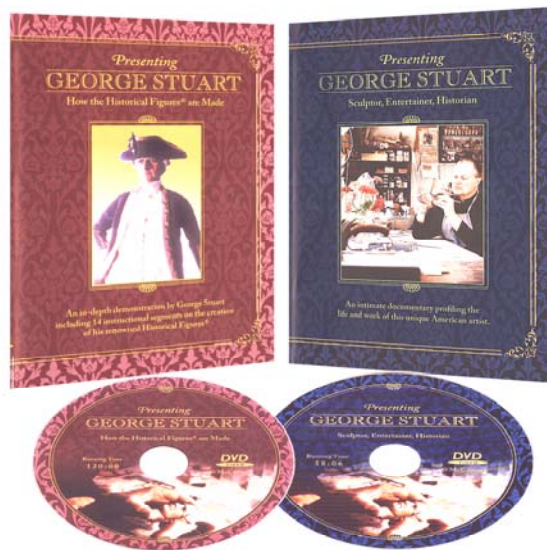
Presenting George Stuart— Sculptor, Entertainer, Historian (58 mins.)

“... provides an intimate view into Stuart’s life and work. . . profiles a unique American artist who shares his passion for history and story telling through public monologs accompanied by quarter life-sized Figures . . .” \$29.95

Presenting George Stuart— How the Historical Figures® Are Made (120 mins.)

“narrated by George Stuart, demonstrates in detailed step-by-step format the creation of the Historical Figures.” \$59.95

Fans everywhere of the Historical Figures are indebted to Ms. McCartney for producing these excellent documentaries. Both DVDs are available through the gallery website, *Figuratively Speaking*, and museum gift shops.



New DVDs can be ordered with the form enclosed or through the gallery Shoppe and at www.galleryhistoricalfigures.com.

Russian Historical Figures Conclude Three Decades of Stuart Exhibitions, Monologs in Smith Gallery



Ivan IV The Terrible

In June 2008, the Smith Gallery will close during expansion of the Museum of Ventura County. George Stuart’s final monolog in the current Russian Series will conclude a string of over 900 performances dating back to 1979.

Currently there is no scheduled reopening date, due to construction vagaries. The Gallery will reopen with identical square footage, but with a new, more efficient floor plan.

During the “dark” period, selected Figures will be represented in body or image at the Museum’s temporary location (to be announced). A video kiosk there will describe the Museum, including the Historical Figures.

The Russian monologs will also be the last to be taped (see Page 3).

Figure Projects

Stuart Team Completes Two-Year Restoration of Monsanto-Hernandez Collection

A collection of 36 Historical Figures was sold to the Monsanto Chemical Corporation in the early 1960s. The collection passed through several owners, with four of the original Figures now lost. The remaining 32 are currently in a private collection. These Figures were created in 1958, and over the years had suffered from neglect and improper storage. The owners contacted Mr. Stuart in 2006 in an effort to find another home for the collection. However, the dilapidated condition of the Figures made placing them in a museum or other institution nearly impossible, so the owners agreed to have Mr. Stuart begin a conservation and restoration project.

Mr. Stuart was already working with Kathy Henri, former Collections Manager at the Museum of Ventura County, on maintaining the Museum's collection of Historical Figures. Ms. Henri began to assist Mr. Stuart with the restoration of the Monsanto collection, which often encompassed an almost-total reconstruction of each Figure and its clothing and accessories. This intense process has taken nearly three years to complete, but these 32 Figures are now in significantly better condition, and are again worthy of public display.

Images of the collection will be available in mid 2008 on the gallery website in the Early Works Group at www.galleryhistoricalfigures.com.



Mary Todd Lincoln



Livia Drusilla Augusta



A younger Mrs. Fitzherbert



Philip II of Spain



Queen Alexandra of England



Caroline of England



Mount Vernon Lass

Figure Events

Expert Artists Learn Stuart's Figure Building Techniques in Advanced Workshop

Artists from across the country gathered in Ojai in November for a week-long workshop to learn exactly how Mr. Stuart creates a Figure body.

The artists were already well known in their own expertise ranging from New York fashion design, Montreal fine arts publishing to Hollywood animation as well as sculptors from Washington, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Northern California and Ventura County. Many have turned their hobbies into commercial success. The gallery website will soon list the website of each attendee on a new "Links" page. Many have asked Mr. Stuart to conduct a workshop on "head design."



With new knowledge and skills, participants left with praise for the workshop.



Lucky Stradley constructs a figure's "skin."



"Muscles" are formed from polyester wadding.



Stuart presented a session on shoe making.



Stuart was assisted by Kathy Henri.



Damon Bard of Berkeley shapes a soft figure.



Stuart critiques sculpture by Pat Lillich.

News & Exhibitions

Selected Northern European Figures Scheduled for Exhibition at Ojai Valley Museum

Wagner's famous cycle operas of the "Ring of the Nibelung" introduced Northern European myths and legends to many of us. In late January 2008, a group of the Figures will go on exhibit at the Ojai Valley Museum.

When George Stuart began researching the Norse gods he found that Wagner had actually drawn from both mythical (god-like) and legendary (human) figures. Stuart sculpted Figures and presented monologs based—as did Wagner—on both myth and legend.



Mythical Brunhild, symbol of power



Was legendary Etzel Attila the Hun?



Scheming Brothers Hagen and Gunter

Russian Monologs to be Videotaped in Smith Gallery on Selected Tuesdays

Russian Monolog Recording Schedule

Tuesdays 1:30 pm in the Smith Gallery
Museum of Ventura County

January 15

Out of the Dark Age: Ivan the Terrible to Peter

February 26

Imperial Ambitions: Peter the Great to Catherine the Great

March 11

Empires Collide: Catherine II to Alexander II

March 25

Collapse and Rebirth: Alexander II to Stalin

Mr. Stuart's monologs titled, *The Russians Are Coming!* will be video taped in the Smith Gallery. These recordings will be made during the regularly scheduled monologs at the Museum of Ventura County.

By signing up for these special dates, you can help make the video tapings lively events.

For ticket availability is limited. For more information, contact the Museum Desk at 805-653-0323.

Publisher's Note: Special thanks to Gene Langley for on-going cartoon art.

Thanks to Kathy Henri for preparing the Monsanto article and editing the issue Also, thanks to Robin Sim for proof reading.

Figuratively Speaking Publications

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