

History in the Making

“Verse Three of Genesis: Let there be light. Yes, let. And then let us see it, learn from it, take it in, and start to shine.”

Louise T Blouin MacBain

(http://www.ltbfoundation.org/ltbi_institute.html)

By JAMIE ELLIN FORBES

With hopes of “advancing a cross-cultural dialogue, promoting and sharing the best of learned practices, and developing working partnerships among diverse groups” the Louise T Blouin Foundation hosted the 2007 Global Creative Leadership Summit last September. This was sponsored in part by the United Nations Office for Partnerships to coincide with the opening session of the UN General Assembly. Among the 100 participants present were heads of state, Nobel laureates and business leaders. Her cache of holdings allows for sizable influence and it is readily apparent that her social adroitness gives her the capacity to elevate the direction of world thought.

Additionally, Louise T Blouin MacBain impacts the breadth and scope of art marketing and collecting worldwide. In the three years since she officially joined the art publishing scene by acquiring *Art + Auction*, *Gallery Guide*, *Museums of New York*, and *Modern Painters* (among others) and launching *Culture and Travel*, and *artinfo.com* Ms. Blouin MacBain has galvanized her vision and forces for globalization and world leadership by uniting all of her resources — using her base in the art/media world to create a platform for planetary change.

She accomplishes this through her Foundation, its board and their outreach art programs in concordance with the LTB publishing group of magazines which cover multiple facets of the international art scene. It is hard to believe this pretty, soft-spoken and delicate woman is this powerhouse world-class mover and shaker. That is, until you hear her speak. MacBain’s mental clarity, ingenious perception, detail in planning and instantaneous assimilation of ideas, accents

her style and cool reserve. Some with her magic may have just chosen to stand around and look good. Not Louise T Blouin MacBain. Her passion and commitment to excellence in all she undertakes highlights a substantial track record. The LTB Empire supports her current undertakings

Her effect and perceptions of art and the art community as a whole have been felt through the collective influence of the LTB Group of Companies. Louise’s grasp of business and her multitude of organized corporate success is due, in part, to her capacity to identify with her customer and marketplace.

The Global Creative Leadership Summit was held at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan. Within the cloistered library walls was an atmosphere electric with subdued excitement. The setting spoke of the past, an all boys club of years gone by, deciding the course of world events. Pictures of the club’s history adorned the walls. A vision of cigar smoke and port sherry in crystal glasses still hung in the air. Yet, this summit was not the fare of the past. This time, a demure and powerful woman hosted an event for innovative change. Supported by notables from all avenues of society, Louise MacBain used the occasion to put forth a plan to reshape global thinking. Somehow this very different collection of personages, in contrast to their predecessors, were made to look at home. The library and stately rooms, gilded in gold leaf, hosted Heads of State and corporate royals in dialoguing the outlined issues. Bravo, Ms. Blouin MacBain! Change was made before anyone walked into the room. What planning!

As the hundred joined



Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer of NATO, President Bharrat Jagdeo of the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana, Louise Blouin MacBain, Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu of Louisiana

Ms. Blouin MacBain in her vision, this diverse group reflected differing disciplines and philosophical approaches. Among them were Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of the Netherlands; President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, of the Republic of Iceland; and NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Also present were Dr. Eric R. Kandel, Nobel Laureate and Professor at Columbia University and Jane Goodall, UN Messenger of Peace and Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation. As part of a collective force, they were testament to the serious committed agenda and interest of Ms. Blouin MacBain for creative thought and the making of a global change.

Publicly at the summit, socially at the reception, and more privately at home among invited guests, her love, passion and commitment to her philanthropic projects came to light and was acted upon. A rich voice of reserve and elegance of thought is Louise’s tool to keep her vision and focus at all times. Imagine the power of ideas, ideals and wealth all coupled with compassion and commitment for others to make a better world. This defines Louise T Blouin MacBain.

Ali Velshi, CNN’s Senior Correspondent moderated “Spotlight On Africa: The Voice of Africa and the Ears of the World.” Dr. Phoebe Asiyo, Chairperson of The Kenya Women’s Political Caucus, with a touch of warmth and

experience, led a discussion on the integrated holistic tribal family.

At times, the panel’s explanations became obstructed by academics and political agenda. However, in a manner that was easy to grasp, Francisco Songane



The Hon. Dr. Phoebe Asiyo

(Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health with the World Health Organization) clearly defined the plight, and offered a formula for change. His heartfelt involvement in issues and problems were reflective of his role.

Africa’s problems were further put into perspective by Mohan Kaul, Chief Executive of the Common Wealth Business Council and Salim Amin, CEO of Camerapix. Each recognized that a strong Africa is dependent on the non-derisive segmenting of its peoples. They explained why the concept of a sovereign Africa with independent yet united countries is something the rest of the world would have to respect. If this were to occur, then economic and political values of understanding and empathy would stimulate trade and rule of law. *continues on page 4*

The President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson offered inspiring, substantive ideas towards addressing climate change and fuel alternatives during the session entitled, "Changing Minds to Change the Climate." His informed and innovative message highlighted Iceland's ability to emerge financially as economically self-sufficient within thirty years. This would be possible with adequate planning and the development of thermoelectric hydropower as a fuel source. This alternative is available to different countries in various ways, he pointed out. What makes his voice on the environment so pertinent is that the glacier is melting in Iceland is at an alarming rate. He lives daily what is only "hypothetical" for many in discussing climatic shift and change. His country is already experiencing the outcome.



Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson

Bill Roedy, Vice Chairman of MTV Networks spoke of how minor changes in personal footprint behavior can make the difference in fuel consumption. MTV had partnered with young people worldwide to promote habits of conservation. Bill's simple, arithmetic approach to reaching millions of up and coming consumers was stimulating and offered a glimpse into the back story of success at the MTV Network.

"Markets Without Borders: Building Businesses in a Globalizing World" was a forum wherein pioneering CEOs highlighted their strategies for growing global brands and markets. Calvin Klein, Founder of Calvin Klein and Jane Friedman, CEO and President of HarperCollins Publishing,

with others, advanced ways to develop their own corporate entrance into emerging markets, such as China while meeting manufacturing needs and broadening the consumer base.

The Internet has brought together the market of international collectors worldwide. The same images are seen and sought after internationally, fueling an even more avid interest in art—a fascination unparalleled since the Renaissance, according to a panel focusing on today's art world. This new market of collectors is supporting contemporary images and individual artists as never before. "It is a great time to be an artist," said Ed Dolman, CEO of Christie's International. "This new market has changed the structure of our business. It used to be the majority of our staff was focused in qualifying antiques. Now we have a young staff and are involved with buyers from India to Germany to the US, all seeking contemporary, collectable art images giving rise to the opportunity for more individual artists, by the thousands, to sell their works."

Ms. Blouin MacBain's summit strives to promote substantive international exchange with the goal of developing new solutions. During "Spotlight in the Middle East," an understanding of Islamic perspective through media was put forth. This compelling issue captured the committed interest of all in attendance. Considerable discussion for exchange drew a sizable audience of leaders to an open environment. President Ahmadinejad, the leader of Iran, and an invited guest speaker at Columbia University, had not been cordially received there. This fact had just made the news during and prior to seminars. A lively environment was fostered as the participants left for the next meeting. "The media plays a vital role in establishing perceptions of the Middle East. What can we do to improve dialogue and cultural understanding between the Middle East and the global community?" posed



Artist Jeff Koons and Dr. Eric R. Kandel, Nobel Laureate

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHANIE BERGER

Al-Jazeera's director, Riz Kahn. Also part of the discussion were Richard Bulliet, Professor of History at Columbia University, and Raghida Dergham, Al-Hayat's Senior Diplomatic Correspondent. The panel reviewed these and other issues. The audience for the panel on the "Islam and Globalization" was standing room only.

The session, "Click of the Mouse..." discussed how communication has been altered by today's technology, and the great impact this has had on business, politics and the government. Jimmy Whales, founder of *Wikipedia*, and Craig Newmark, founder of *Craig's List*, both reflected on the changes Internet media has made during its short lifetime. The integrity of individual rights of and the conflicts of protecting identity while expediting the capacity of the Internet were discussed as were the exchange of ideas at lightning speeds and conceptual concepts for mass global assimilation.

All of the summit dialogues wove the warp and weft of the integral responsibility of world leaders and their organizations to bring these enlightening dreams to fruition. Whether artists envision a dream, heads of state organize the dream for their constituents, or corporations impact the dream as in the forum, "Partnerships, Power and Potential," globalization is already underway. The opportunity to dialogue what we bring to this and how we actualize the best of what can be was the thematic thread

that wove the various seminars together.

Louise MacBain's recognition of art and architecture as a conveyance for concepts are brought to light by her Foundation. Artists, as the voices of visual recorder icons, display the stream of concepts and create new visions promoted in our culture. From graffiti to the Fine Art Dealers of America, to elementary classroom exhibits, through to important museum exhibitions: artists and their art all set the pace for visual assimilation of ideas and communication throughout our world culture. Ms. Blouin MacBain's corporate holdings and overall commitment through her Foundation will leave an indelible imprint supporting the current voice of art. Her interest and understanding of the role of art is the backdrop for her past achievements and future goals. LTB's excellence of corporate business and the Louise T Blouin Foundation are the underpinnings to foster and exchange ideas impacting our collective futures through her summits for World Globalization and Leadership. Classically creative, new and innovative concepts are integrated with both corporate and political know-how. Contemporary cultural philosophy and academic approaches are united in Louise MacBain's vision for the future.

For further details and a transcript of the summit, visit http://www.ltbfoundation.org/who_we_are.html, and <http://www.creativeleadershipsummit.org/index.htm>. Louise Blouin Media is launching an online social networking site called www.myartinfo.com; it is a global platform for artists across all of the Arts and is currently translated into seven languages.