



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, July 9, 2007

CONTACT: Mark-Elliott Lugo, Library Curator
619-238-6627 (Central Library office/voice mail)

DANA MONTLACK EXHIBITION OFFERS UNUSUAL PERSPECTIVE ON AQUATIC CREATURES

More Than Two Dozen New Images to be Featured

SAN DIEGO – The fragility and beauty of aquatic life are among the themes explored by artist Dana Montlack in “Recent Works,” the summer exhibition of the Visual Arts Program of the San Diego Public Library. The exhibition, on display in the gallery of the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, runs from July 15 to August 26. A reception for Montlack will be held on Sunday, July 15 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and she will give an informal talk about her work on Saturday, August 4 at 1 p.m. The exhibition, reception, and talk are free of charge to the public.

For much of her life, Montlack has been fascinated by life processes and the internal structure of living things. This stems from her girlhood when she x-rayed patients for her grandfather, a physician. Examining specimens through a microscope and perusing medical texts were also favorite pastimes. Montlack received an MFA in mixed media from the Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design (Los Angeles) and currently lives between San Diego and Atlanta.

Montlack’s most recent work has occupied her for the past four years and involved countless trips to aquariums, the seashore, and other locations. There she studied and photographed delicate and ephemeral creatures like jellyfish, anemones, sea horses, and sea dragons, as well as bodies of water in motion.

The resulting images, infused with other-worldly colors and glowing as though illuminated from within, are magical; hybrids of realism and abstraction, lyricism and mystery. Montlack’s fundamental skills as an artist are especially evident in her ability to manipulate form, color, and composition. Her attention to detail and the ingenuity she demonstrates in the unusual fabrication of her works are also noteworthy. Montlack has found a way of injecting freshness and vitality into a theme that, in the hands of a lesser artist, would be little more than a cliché.

– more –

The Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library is open seven days a week and is located at 4275 Cass Street. Library hours are: Mondays and Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The San Diego Public Library’s Visual Arts Program is a nationally recognized series of exhibitions, lectures, a television program, and other art-related activities. The mission of the Program is to demonstrate the Library’s role as a cultural institution embracing a broad range of disciplines, while assisting San Diego’s mid-career and older professional artists in achieving wider local, regional, and national attention. Visual Arts Program exhibitions are made possible, in part, by contributions from individuals, volunteer efforts, and the Friends of Central Library. For more information about the Montlack exhibition, or tax-deductible contributions to the Visual Arts Program, the public can contact the library curator at (619) 238-6627.

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future

###