



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

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Solo Exhibition of Works by Beth King to Be Featured at Taylor Library
Long-Time San Diego-Area "Painter's Painter" is Noted for Powerful Abstracts, Unusual Imagery

SAN DIEGO – More than two dozen paintings by Beth King, an artist whose works are rarely seen in public venues but who is highly respected in art circles, will be featured in a solo exhibition opening Sunday, November 29, 2009 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library. The Pacific Beach Branch Library houses the flagship gallery for the San Diego Public Library system. The exhibition, titled "Beth King: Paintings on Canvas," will run through February 15, 2010. A reception for King will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 29. The exhibition and reception are open to the public and free of charge. Library and gallery hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 8:00 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 to 5 p.m. For more information the public can call the library at (858) 581-9934.

At first glance, King's paintings come as somewhat of a shock. Their graphic power, impeccable design, stunning use of color, and perfectly resolved composition are startling in an era when conceptual approaches, more often than not, have outweighed, even usurped, formal concerns. In general, King avoids representational imagery in her paintings (she classifies them as non-objective abstractions), yet they are highly personal, unusual, engaging, and, as a testament to her skill, evoke an immediate and visceral response in the viewer.

Throughout her career, King's admirers have ranged from artists to scientists. Nobel Prize Laureate Francis Crick and his wife Odile (an accomplished artist) owned several of King's works. Other noted artists and art world figures who have collected King's paintings include Flavia Gilmore, Smithsonian curator James Goode, and the late Ethel Greene. Certainly, not many paintings created these days are imbued with the spirit of icons of modernism like Stuart Davis, Arthur Dove, Arshile Gorky, and Adolph Gottlieb. King, now in her late seventies, continues to follow her own vision and defy art world trends. The beauty and vitality of her canvases are undeniable – and somehow reassuring.

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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 King exhibition, or tax-deductible contributions to the Visual Arts Program, please contact Library Curator Mark-Elliott Lugo at (619) 238-6627.

NOTE TO EDITORS: A representative selection of high quality digital images is available on request from the library curator.

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 Beth King exhibition is the most recent of more than 125 museum-quality contemporary art exhibitions that have been organized by the Visual Arts Program of the San Diego Public Library since 1997. 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 Visual Arts Program, the public can contact the library curator at (619) 238-6627 or visit the Library’s website at www.sandiegolibrary.org

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org

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