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City of San Diego Acquires 100 New Works of Art Created by San Diego Artists

'SD PRACTICE' INITIATIVE PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARTISTS AND STRATEGICALLY
EXPANDS CITY'S CIVIC ART COLLECTION

SAN DIEGO – As California continues to reopen, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on artists is projected to last for months, if not years. During the stay home order, many artists were left with few ways to exhibit their work and or generate income. With that in mind, the City of San Diego last year launched two initiatives to support local artists: SD Practice and Park Social.

Today the City announced 100 new acquisitions from [89 local artists](#) are being added to the Civic Art Collection through the SD Practice initiative, which focused on the purchase of existing artworks from San Diego area artists. This initiative aims to support artists affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, advance the mission of the Civic Art Collection, and increase collection holdings by acquiring new works that reflect the rich diversity of artistic talent and expression in San Diego.

Acquisition of these new works was made possible through a \$500,000 gift from the estate of Thomas O. Rasmussen, an avid contemporary art collector. Rasmussen, who died in 2014, desired to expand the presence of artwork in public facilities.

"With these artworks, many of which are the first by these artists to enter the Civic Art Collection holdings, we will be able to ensure that the collection continues to grow and deepens understanding of contemporary art and local art histories," said Christine E. Jones, Chief of Civic Art Strategies of the City's Commission for Arts and Culture. "It's also important to grow awareness of San Diego artists and to help support them at such a difficult time."

The new acquisitions span artistic media from painting, sculpture, drawing, print, photography and video, installations and textiles. They reveal key aspects of San Diego's art practices and, in most cases, are the City's first works by the respective artists.

In an effort to acquire artworks, the City issued a request for proposal (RFP) and 552 artists responded. The RFP was open to practicing artists residing in San Diego County. The City convened a panel of five jurors to assess eligible artwork applications considering the priorities of the SD Practice initiative, which aims to strengthen

and diversify the collection while underscoring the City's commitment to working artists and their important role in civic life.

The panel included local art professionals:

- Anthony Graham, Associate Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and Commission for Arts and Culture Public Art Committee member.
- Eun Jung Park, Assistant Professor, Art Department, Southwestern College and Commission for Arts and Culture Public Art Committee member.
- Derrick Cartwright, Director of University Galleries and Associate Professor, Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History at the University of San Diego and Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Timken Museum of Art.
- Gaidi Finnie, Executive Director, San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art.
- Alessandra Moctezuma, artist and Gallery Director/Professor, Fine Arts Department, Museum Studies at San Diego Mesa College.

“We are thrilled to be bringing such a rich and diverse selection of works into the collection this year thanks to Thomas O. Rasmussen,” said Jonathon Glus, Executive Director for the City’s Commission for Arts and Culture. “We greatly appreciate his generosity to make these acquisitions possible and, in turn, for helping to enhance and more fully represent artists working in San Diego in this collection.”

The works will be featured in public places for residents and visitors to enjoy beginning in summer 2021. To learn more about the Civic Art Collection visit sdcivicartcollection.com or the Commission for Arts and Culture website.

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