



News Release

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Port of San Diego Public Art Program and City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture Announce Plan to Install Sculpture by Renowned Artist near San Diego Bay

Contemporary "Isis" sculpture by Mark di Suvero on loan for one year

(July 8, 2004 – San Diego) Working in partnership with the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, the Port of San Diego's Public Art Committee has announced the upcoming placement of a modern artwork by a world-renowned sculptor, Mark di Suvero on the median where Harbor Drive and Laurel Street intersect.

The large sculpture, titled "ISIS", stands 42 feet tall and is 63 feet long. Constructed from industrial steel beams, the sculpture features the bow of a ship that serves as its focal point. It has been suggested that the ship's bow is in memory of di Suvero's father, who was an Italian naval officer stationed in China. The bow is suspended by steel cables which allow it to gently sway with the wind. "ISIS" is both the name of an Egyptian goddess as well as the acronym for the Institute of Scrap Iron and Steel, which commissioned di Suvero to make the sculpture for its 50th anniversary. Completed in 1978, "ISIS" was exhibited at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, a part of the Smithsonian Institution, on the Mall in Washington, D.C. until 1992. Recently exhibited at the Manilow Sculpture Park in University Park, Illinois, it will be installed at the Port location beginning July 12, where it will remain for approximately one year.

Born in China, di Suvero emigrated to San Francisco at the beginning of World War II. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, he created his first group of sculptures out of scavenged wood from razed buildings in New York City. Working in the tradition of noted sculptors David Smith and Alexander Calder, di Suvero is considered one of the most important sculptors working in the United States today. His works can be seen in museums such as the County Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, and New York's Whitney Museum and Museum of Modern Art. Recent exhibitions of di Suvero's

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outdoor sculptures have been held at the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach, California; Storm King Arts Center in New York; and museums in Paris and Venice, Italy.

“The Port of San Diego is pleased to have this esteemed sculpture on loan,” said Peter Q. Davis, Chairman of the Board of Port Commissioners. “The collaboration between the Port and City public art programs resulted in this outstanding opportunity to have one of Mr. di Suvero’s sculptures gracing the waterfront.”

After enthusiastic endorsement by both agencies, the Port of San Diego and the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture approved a partnership agreement in September 2003 to work together on a temporary sculpture exhibit along the North Embarcadero.

“The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture is proud to be working together with the Port’s Public Art department on the public art partnership,” said Dr. Vivian Reznik, Chair of the Commission. “The San Diego Bay waterfront is an ideal setting for a world-class sculpture that our visitors and residents can appreciate.”

The Port of San Diego’s Public Art Program was created in 1996 to allow for the placement of numerous art projects in public spaces along the Port’s member cities’ shorelines. The program supports community-based projects by providing sites and funding opportunities in partnerships with member cities’ public art programs. In addition to the di Suvero sculpture, the Tidelands Collection includes works by other distinguished artists like Niki de Saint Phalle, Donal Hord, Leonard Nierman and James Hubbell.



