



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Saturday, December 29, 2007

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A varied selection of high resolution, color digital images is available from the library curator on request.

### **Noted San Diego Artist John Abel to Speak in Conjunction with His Retrospective Exhibition** *Free lecture offers rare opportunity to hear the artist*

**SAN DIEGO** – San Diego painter and illustrator John Abel, one of the most irreverent and outspoken artists working in the region, will speak on at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, 2008 in the gallery of the Taylor/Pacific Beach Branch Library. The talk is being given in conjunction with the artist's current exhibition, "John Daniel Abel: Paintings, Drawings, and Graphics, 1977 – 2007." Abel will discuss the evolution of his art over the past three decades, provide insight into the works on display, and respond to questions from the audience. Abel's exhibition features 65 works and runs through February 3. The talk and exhibition are free and open to the public.

Spanning three decades, "John Daniel Abel: Paintings, Drawings, and Graphics" is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition ever organized of the artist's works. Recent paintings of popular favorites, such as landscapes and depictions of old, abandoned vehicles, are included, along with figurative paintings and drawings that reflect Abel's lifelong interest in the more eccentric aspects of human nature. Depictions of the impoverished, the terminally ill, civilian victims of war, the homeless, criminals, and misfits predominate in the latter category. The majority of these works, especially the drawings and recent paintings, have never been exhibited. A unique treasure stored for many years in the artist's studio archives and displayed in this exhibition is a series of small etchings that capture the nostalgia and sadness evoked by battered, aging cars and trucks.

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Although Abel's roots are as an illustrator, the technical skills he has acquired over the years, combined with a dark, poetic vision, have enabled him to transcend the genre. His works can be read on a number of different levels, and, despite their relatively intimate scale, are powerful, beautiful, and thought-provoking. This exhibition, which is accompanied by a full-color catalogue and includes several paintings reproduced in James Lightner's book "Land of Sunlight: Contemporary Paintings of San Diego County," published this year, will likely earn Abel legions of new admirers. Those already familiar with Abel's art will be thrilled with his recent paintings, as well as gaining added insight into his work as a whole. In addition, an in-depth interview with the artist will begin airing in late March as part of the ongoing "Profiles" series hosted by the library curator on CityTV 24.

The Pacific Beach/Taylor Library is open seven days a week and is located at 4275 Cass Street. Library hours are: Mondays and Wednesdays, 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 Abel exhibition or 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](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org)

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

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**What:** Free talk by outspoken local artist John Abel in conjunction with his current exhibit at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Library.

**When:** Artist talk is *1 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, 2008*  
Pacific Beach/Taylor Library at 4275 Cass Street

Artist exhibit—*John Daniel Abel: Paintings, Drawings, and Graphics, 1977 – 2007*—is through February 3 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Library at 4275 Cass Street. Library hours are: Mondays and Wednesdays, 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.