



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

San Diego Public Library

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Library Exhibition Features Works by Eleven Noted San Diego-Area Painters *“Pure Painting 2” Includes More than Two Dozen Major Paintings*

SAN DIEGO...“Pure Painting 2,” an unusual all-painting exhibition featuring works by eleven of San Diego’s most accomplished artists, will be on display through May 18 in the gallery of the Taylor/Pacific Beach Branch Library. The exhibition showcases paintings executed using a diverse array of techniques, styles, and creative approaches. These range from the meticulously finished realism and surrealism of artists like Mark Adams Bryce, Marianela de la Hoz, Cliff McReynolds, and Vicki Walsh, to the painterly abstractions of Richard Baker and Robert Treat. Veterans of the city’s art scene include John Abel, Stuart Burton, Michael Wheelden, and W. Haase Wojtyla. Jackie Lo, the youngest artist shown, adds a fresh and distinctive perspective to the exhibition. “Pure Painting 2” celebrates the inherent beauty, versatility, and expressiveness of the medium of paint and offers compelling evidence that one of the most gratifying and memorable experiences possible can be provided by a thoughtfully conceived and well-crafted painting.

THE ARTISTS OF PURE PAINTING 2

- **John Daniel Abel** is most fulfilled when he focuses on the darker side of human nature, but is equally comfortable painting landscapes. Inspired by the dramatic rock formations and vegetation of San Diego’s back country, the artist’s unusual nocturnal landscape, *Morning Star*, was shaped by his somber and poetic outlook.
- One of the most respected professors on the faculty of the San Diego State University Art Department, **Richard Baker** creates large-scale, symmetric, abstract paintings in which hard-edge forms are superimposed on gestural, painterly backgrounds. Baker’s imagery references tools, machines, the figure, the internal systems of the human body, and Eastern religion.

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- **Mark Adams Bryce**, a nationally known painter who has never exhibited locally, combines a superb trompe l’oeil style and a profound imagination to address many issues, including the plight of artists in our culture.
- **Stuart Burton**, known for decades as one of San Diego’s preeminent landscape painters, is represented by a stunning portrait of his wife that marks the artist’s surprising return to figuration.
- The painstakingly executed egg tempera paintings of **Marianela de la Hoz**, who was classically trained in Mexico, offer the artist’s perspective on the subjugation of women in Mexican culture, good versus evil, religion, death, and other themes. Frequently, her imagery is grotesque and surreal.
- **Jackie Lo**, the youngest artist of the group, recently earned her MFA in painting from San Diego State University and currently teaches there. Focusing on foods in neighborhood markets and restaurants, her observations on the strange things that can occur when American and immigrant cultures collide demonstrate an unusually mature vision, a quirky sense of humor, and a unique technique.
- **Cliff McReynolds** is greatly concerned with issues of spirituality and morality. *Spacescape #18*, an oil on panel work that took him several months to complete, melds the microcosm and the macrocosm. In it, clusters of cells, including a fetus in an amniotic sac, float in a universe of planets and galaxies.
- **Vicki Walsh’s** deliberately unflattering portraits delve deep beneath the surface to comment on our culture’s infatuation with youth and beauty. A preliminary work from her new “Role Playing” series, in which people are depicted screaming or expressing violent emotion, is shown here.
- **Michael Wheelden** specializes in deconstructing images of the city’s vernacular (everyday, nondescript) architecture, then reassembling them into multi-dimensional canvases. This artist sees beauty where there is none, then elevates it to the extraordinary.
- **W. Haase Wojtyla** is a lifelong aficionado of gruesome crime, aberrant human behavior, and other eccentric themes that strike his fancy. Two works from different series, including his best known and whimsical “Nude in the Shower” series, are exhibited here.

Detailed biographies of the participating artists and the library curator’s comments on individual works are available as handouts in the gallery and on the Library’s website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/services/visualarts.shtml>

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 8:00 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 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library phone number for the general public is (858) 581-9934. **Please note: The gallery will be closed May 1 through May 4 for a branch library fundraising event.**

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 “Pure Painting 2” 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

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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