



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Library Exhibition Features Works by Alexia Markarian** *Library hosts first solo exhibition in several years by noted area artist*

**SAN DIEGO** – The first solo exhibition in several years by one of San Diego’s most respected artists, Alexia Markarian, opens May 27, 2008 in the gallery of the Earl & Birdie Taylor Library/Pacific Beach Branch of the San Diego Public Library. “Alexia Markarian: Paintings and Works on Paper, 2000 to 2008” continues through July 13. A reception for the artist will be held in the gallery on Saturday, May 31 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. The exhibition and reception are free of charge and open to the general public.

Markarian’s distinctive and thought-provoking imagery has earned this artist a reputation as one of the most creative forces in the city. Spanning nearly a decade, the exhibition offers gallery goers an unusual opportunity to witness a recent, dramatic change in the evolution of her art, and to view major, earlier works that have rarely or never been publicly exhibited.

Intensely personal, Markarian’s art incorporates layer upon layer of seemingly randomly conceived and arranged, subconsciously generated images. However, the artist avoids obvious storytelling and any semblance of excessive preplanning or labored execution. Recurring iconography includes linear renderings of insects, bizarrely mutated life forms, and snake-like loopings of heavy chains and arteries. Most works reference the female figure, transformed into a psychological map. Limbs may be missing and heads drift away from their torsos. Although Markarian’s enigmatic and eccentric oeuvre evokes comparison to Outsider Art, she admires the scribbled abstractions of painter Cy Twombly and cites textile design, tattoo art, comics, animation, and new media as influences.

After a several-year hiatus from art-making, Markarian’s recent paintings resemble drawings. Her imagery is sparser, passages are left seemingly unfinished, and her palette is subtler. Markarian would likely concur that her art challenges viewers more strongly than ever.

Additional information about the Markarian exhibition and previous exhibitions are available on the Library’s website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/services/visualarts.shtml>

NOTE TO EDITORS: A selection of full-color, high-resolution digital images of Markarian’s works are available on request from the library curator.

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.

**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 Markarian 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)

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](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org)