



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Mark-Elliott Lugo, Library curator

619-238-6627

858-581-9934

mlugo@sandiego.gov

Nature Theme Unites Works by Three Artists at College-Rolando Branch Library

SAN DIEGO – “Shaped by Nature: Ceramics and Images,” an exhibition of nearly thirty contemporary ceramic sculptures and vessel forms by Warren Bakley and Dot Kimura, augmented by a series of flatbed scanned pigment prints by Faiya Fredman, is on view through March 7, 2009 at the College/Rolando Branch Library. All three artists have been highly respected members of San Diego’s art scene for decades and derive much of their inspiration from forms, textures, and colors found in nature. This exhibition is free and open to the general public during library hours. The library is located at 6600 Montezuma Road. 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.; and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The phone number for the general public is (619) 533-3902.

THE EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Warren Bakley, now in his late seventies, is a brilliant ceramic artist, architectural designer, and painter with a national reputation. He is best known for elegant, hand-built ceramic sculptures whose unusual, abstract, stone-like forms suggest geologic formations or objects found in nature. Their earth-toned surfaces and glazes often evoke antiquity and weathering. Born and educated in Philadelphia, Bakley moved to San Diego in 1980 from New Jersey. He is a member of Allied Craftsmen, a group of leading San Diego area craftsmen, and a founding member of Clay Associates, a consortium of ceramic artists. Bakley writes: “I have come to see my creativity with clays as part of a ceramic tradition that in this century is showing movement away from utilitarian objects toward a more complimentary usage. I would describe myself as a designer doing sculpture within the ceramic process. It is from my role as a designer of spaces, interiors, and furnishings that my ceramics take their architectural structure and form. My intent is to express with indigenous materials available something that speaks of the current times and also, hopefully, speaks something of myself.” Bakley lives in Pacific Beach.

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Dot Kimura was born and raised in Kilauea, Kauai and has been working with clay since the 1960s. She moved to San Diego in 1972 and has been an active member of the San Diego Potter's Guild, Allied Craftsmen, and the Ikenobo Society. Always experimenting, Kimura's works range from classic hand-thrown vessels to coil-built sculpture, lost paper construction, tea pots, abstract expressionist forms, and bold plaques resembling ancient battle shields. She has perfected several glazes, including some that are used on the works in this exhibition. Kimura is greatly influenced by the forms and patinas of ancient Chinese bronzes, and the weathering effects of water, wind, lichens, and mosses on stone. Her art is characterized by a rugged contemporary elegance and great sensitivity to materials. Kimura lives in Pacific Beach.

Faiya Fredman – Faiya Fredman (b. 1925) is a nationally known artist who has achieved recognition for an extensive and diverse body of work ranging from large mixed-media paintings incorporating three-dimensional elements to impressively scaled sculptures. Consistently original and elegant, she has derived inspiration from universal phenomena and timeless places, including the cycles of life, nature, ancient astronomy and mythologies, and archaeological sites and artifacts. Another distinctive aspect of Fredman's art has been her ongoing experimentation with non-traditional materials, recent technologies, and unusual techniques. The advent of digital technologies has further enriched her arsenal of creative tools and methods of production.

The most surprising and radical change in Fredman's artistry in nearly six decades occurred approximately three years ago when she began creating botanically themed photographic images. Ranging from sumptuous and colorful to elegant and spare, a number of these works evoked comparison to lavish 17th and 18th century Dutch still life paintings, whereas others, whose primary elements are leaves and twigs, suggested *ikebana* (Japanese flower arrangements) in their austerity and painstaking composition. In all of these images, the botanical materials are in various stages of decomposition. Some are slightly wilted, but still retaining most of their original color, whereas others are thoroughly dried out, brown, and crumbling. The works at the College-Rolando Library were originally included in Fredman's critically acclaimed solo show "Botanical Images 2005 – 2007" at the Pacific Beach Branch Library. Fredman lives in La Jolla.

Additional information on the current exhibition and the Visual Arts Program are available on the Library's website at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/publiclibrary/services/visualarts.shtml>

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 this 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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