



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

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**IMPORTANT DRAWING EXHIBITION TO OPEN AT PACIFIC
BEACH/TAYLOR BRANCH LIBRARY GALLERY**

Works in Drawing Media by San Diego-Area Artists Rank Among Nation's Best

SAN DIEGO – More than sixty works by fourteen leading artists from San Diego will be on view in one of the region's most anticipated art events, The Ninth Annual Invitational Drawing Show. The exhibition will run from January 29 through April 30, 2011 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, which houses the flagship gallery of the San Diego Public Library system. A reception for the exhibiting artists will be held on Saturday, January 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The library is located at 4275 Cass St., one block south of Grand Ave. in Pacific Beach. Library hours are: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The library is closed Sundays and Mondays. Before and after-hours, docented tours are available for large groups and schools. For more information the public can call the library at (858) 581-9934 or visit online at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/services/visualarts.shtml>

Drawing is generally acknowledged to be the most difficult and fundamental skill needed by studio-based artists, but, for a variety of reasons, exhibitions dedicated solely to this discipline are rare. Consequently, the Library's annual drawing exhibitions, organized under the aegis of its Visual Arts Program, attract unusually large numbers of the general public, artists, students, teachers, and collectors from throughout Southern California. The Ninth Annual Drawing Show will particularly interest art students and their instructors who may have had difficulty finding prime examples of contemporary drawing in museums, or who have encountered shortages of drawing classes in local colleges and universities.

As in previous years, the drawings on view in the Ninth Annual Drawing Show were selected by Library Curator Mark-Elliott Lugo who, last year, in a ceremony at the Oceanside Museum of Art, was awarded the West Coast Drawing group's Platinum Pencil Award for his "distinguished work advancing the art of drawing" through this series of exhibitions. For this year's show, Lugo identified works that had been created within the past year, as well as asking some artists to finish ongoing works or to create new pieces. The exception is Kenneth Capps, a brilliant, internationally known sculptor, who, in addition to showing a selection of recent works from his ongoing "steel drawings" series, is represented by a pair of related works he created more than thirty years ago. The historic perspective offered by the older pieces will provide viewers with insight into a creative process that has spanned decades.

Drawing media used by the participating artists range from traditional materials, such as ink or graphite on paper, to the unconventional, including cut and incised steel plates, charcoal on plaster, encaustic (melted pigmented wax) on paper, ink on sheets of wood veneer, mixed-media on canvas, and colored pencil on oriented strand board (a type of plywood). Technically, artists such as Katherine Brannock, Robert Nelson, Herbert Olds, and Raúl Trejo demonstrate rendering skills that rival those of the Old Masters, yet their works are original and contemporary. Others express themselves through minimalist, abstract, or deliberately crudely rendered or naïve imagery. In terms of scale, the exhibited drawings range from diminutive endeavors measuring only a few inches square, to a sprawling (four by nine feet) mixed-media, figurative work on canvas by Åsa Kvissberg.

Among the artists challenging or expanding classic definitions of drawing are Capps and Barbara Sexton. Sexton's drawing in the exhibition is a large, vertical triptych (a three-part work). One of its components is a photograph of human ears, manipulated by the artist into a grotesque mutation. This is juxtaposed with two drawings painstakingly rendered in graphite on paper. Each drawing resembles an illustration, not unlike those found in physics textbooks. The drawings, which depict magnetic fields, took the artist the better part of a year to complete. Taken individually, the photograph and its companion drawings are marvelous works of art and conceptually fascinating. However, unified in the format of a triptych, an entirely new image and context is suggested. This piece reflects Sexton's oeuvre, in general, which ranks among the most original, thought-provoking, and graphically powerful in the city.

The artists exhibiting in the Ninth Annual Drawing Show include pillars of the art community who have influenced the city’s cultural scene for decades, as well as others who are prodigiously talented, but under-recognized. Lack of space precludes describing the contributions of each artist to this year’s show, but the list is as follows: Brannock, Capps, Jesus Dominguez, Mary Lynn Dominguez, Josh Eggleton, Kvissberg, Olds, Todd Partridge, Sally Hagy-Boyer, Nelson, Sexton, Ernest Silva, Robert Treat, and Trejo.

NOTE TO EDITORS: High-resolution color digital images of many of the works in this exhibition are available on request from the library curator.

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 Beauty Project” exhibition is the most recent of nearly 150 museum-quality contemporary art exhibitions that have been organized by the Visual Arts Program of the San Diego Public Library since 1997. 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 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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