

Renewed: A Short Story About the San Diego Public Library's Visual Arts Program

September 30, 2013 – March 29, 2014

Art Gallery, Floor 9, New Central Library, San Diego

The opening of the new Central Library marks a new milestone in the San Diego Public Library's acclaimed Visual Arts Program created and curated by Mark-Elliott Lugo from 1997-2012. The mission of the Visual Arts Program established by Lugo 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. To celebrate the history of the Visual Arts Program and to initiate its evolution, an exhibition titled *Renewed: A Short Story About the San Diego Public Library's Visual Arts Program* has been organized by guest curator, Kathryn Kanjo, the chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. The exhibition features thirty-two artworks by a selection of artists who previously exhibited in the Visual Arts Program including Faiya Fredman, Suda House, Jeff Irwin, Philipp Scholz Rittermann, Gail Roberts, Lynn Schuette, Ernest Silva and Vicki Walsh. Since 1997, numerous artists were featured in the 125 exhibitions organized by the Lugo for the San Diego Public Library. Whether one-person or group, media-specific or thematic, the exhibitions showcased the region's visual artists in a readily accessible cultural arena: the public library. By designing a dedicated art gallery in the new Central Library, San Diego renews its commitment to the vibrancy of the community's visual arts scene. The exhibition is made possible by a collaboration between the San Diego Public Library and the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

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