



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nationally-Recognized San Diego Artist and Illustrator Michael Dormer to Exhibit at Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library

SAN DIEGO – More than 60 works by Michael Dormer, one of the wittiest commentators and skilled draftsmen working in San Diego today, are featured in “Oop Bop Sh’Bam and Other Recent Works,” the fall offering of the San Diego Public Library’s Visual Arts Program. The exhibition runs from Sept. 5 to Oct. 15 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library. The library is located at 4275 Cass St.

Spanning a half century, Dormer’s distinguished and fascinating career in fine art, illustration, cartooning, writing, and television has been built on quirky humor, unabashed irreverence, experimentation in subject matter and media, and masterful technical skill. A component of this exhibition, for example, is a series of interactive mixed-media works, the Presto-Chango Series, which features “magneto adjustos”: elements that can be rearranged by the viewer to suit his or her own taste.

In the same vein, the artist has been known to explore media as eccentric as “wax pencil and ice plant juice.” Some of Dormer’s creations, such as the legendary surf icon Hot Curl (a character he developed in the late 1950s) and Shrimpenstein, a hilarious Los Angeles children’s television program that aired in the mid-1960s, are cult classics. One of Dormer’s longest professional relationships has been with *San Diego Magazine*. His first illustration for this periodical was created in 1954 and, over the past 50 years, hundreds more have appeared on its pages. Dormer is a 40-year resident of Ocean Beach where he lives with his wife, Flicka.

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Dormer's works are colorful and whimsical, but they are grounded in an intelligence and executed with a finesse that will delight anyone who appreciates contemporary art.

A reception for Dormer will be held on Sunday, Sept. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Library hours are: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the library at (858) 581-9934 or visit the Library on the City's Web site at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/> .

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 gifts from the Frederic Whitaker and Eileen Monaghan Whitaker Foundation and CompUSA, contributions from individuals, volunteer efforts, and the Friends of Central Library. For more information, please contact Library Curator Mark-Elliott Lugo at (619) 238-6627.

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