



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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Mission Valley Library to Host Exhibit of Jerry Berndt Photographs Entitled “The Spirit Within” *Display is Part of Library’s “Stories of Faith” Series*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library and the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at the University of Southern California will present “The Spirit Within,” an exhibition of 26 powerful black and white images by Jerry Berndt. These photographs will be on display at the Mission Valley Branch Library from Nov. 13 through Dec. 10. This exhibit is FREE to the public. A public reception and discussion with Grace Dyrness from the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at the USC will held from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13. The Mission Valley Branch Library is located at 2123 Fenton Parkway, 858-573-5007.

“The Spirit Within” provides an intimate look at the religious practices of first-generation immigrants living in Los Angeles. Berndt, an internationally known documentary photographer, spent several years capturing an unforgettable range of worship, devotion, fervor, and faces. The images on display were selected from a series of one hundred Berndt photographs originally exhibited as part of a project for USC’s Center for Religion and Civic Culture.

During his distinguished career, Berndt has created a critically acclaimed body of work, including series addressing alcoholism, homelessness in America, and suffering in Armenia. His images can be found in important museum and institutional collections worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Fine Art, Houston; and the Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris). Berndt currently lives in Paris with his wife and son.

This presentation is part of the Library’s major, five-month program “Stories of Faith: Religion and Diversity in San Diego,” a Communities Speak project made possible by the California Council for the Humanities.

For more information about the “The Spirit Within” exhibit or other “Stories of Faith” programs, visit the Library on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/> or call 619-236-5800.

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