



NEWS RELEASE

October 18, 1993

For Immediate Release

Press release on art exhibition:

Public and Private Journeys

October 12, 1993 - January 13, 1994

Museum Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11-4
Wednesday evening 6-8
Saturday 11-2
Before selected Flint Center events
Closed Thanksgiving weekend and Dec. 10 - Jan. 2.

Reception: Wednesday, October 27, 6-8, Euphrat Museum of Art

Opening Tuesday, October 12, at the Euphrat Museum of Art is *Public and Private Journeys*. This exhibition brings together work by three artists based in the San Francisco Bay Area — David Izu, Jung Ran Kim, and Rene Yung. All draw upon different places, cultures, and times in their work.

Public and Private Journeys was organized in collaboration with artist/curator Betty Kano of Berkeley.

Among the works in the exhibition are a poster and two collages created by David Izu for the San Francisco public art project *Journeys*. Co-sponsored by Intersection for the Arts and the San Francisco Art Commission, *Journeys* "chronicled the paths, journeys and stories of some of San Francisco's inhabitants and how they shaped and continue to shape the city. It is made up of images within bus shelters throughout the city that point out stories and aspects of communities which would otherwise be invisible to passers-by."

Izu's works for the *Journeys* project take "You're history" as their theme. Among the elements in his collages are family documents such as the Japanese passport of his immigrant great-grandfather

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Huaruno Izu and a photograph taken in April 1942 of Japanese-Americans registering for internment camps.

In addition to examples of Izu's public art, the exhibition includes several of his drawings and acrylic/oil paintings. These works often incorporate domestic objects and familiar products. The paintings combine modernistic flat grid patterns with still lifes painted in the Renaissance illusion of three-dimensional space.

Izu is interested in exploring how meanings are attached to things. For example, *Rock with Adjectives - 36 Views of Fuji* juxtaposes the Prudential Insurance Company's Rock of Gibraltar logo, images of Mount Fuji from the famous series of woodcuts by Hokusai, touristic souvenirs, and various pushpins and clothespins. The painting comments on ways in which notions related to the endurance and beauty of these two mountains have been used to promote products with no connections to the places themselves.

Jung Ran Kim is a ceramicist interested in human emotions and how they manifest themselves. She describes her work as "basically all self-portraits, pieces about myself and how I relate to society."

Kim immigrated to the United States from Korea in 1982. "For the first five years here, I stayed home," she states. "Then I realized that I had to find some way of associating with this society." She studied commercial art briefly before turning to ceramics. Kim graduated from the Academy of Art College in 1991. She lives in Oakland.

Three of Jung Ran Kim's works are included in *Public and Private Journeys*. *Uncertainty* is a nearly life-sized double self-portrait as man-in-the-street. Both figures wear hats and coats, the protective trappings of U.S. society; one man is blindfolded. *Leaning*, a seemingly precarious 6' tower with figures, is a metaphor for Kim's attempts to live and build a body of work in an unfamiliar culture. *The End of the Journey* asks viewers to look ahead to the ends of their lives when they may question the values by which they have lived. Like many of Kim's works, *The End of the Journey* sits on a bed of raked sand.

Artist Rene Yung "grew up in the potpourri culture of Hong Kong, as a one-time colonized Catholic teenage girl taught in the Confucian tradition of my forebears, and then dropped into the midst of the Californian Age of Aquarius." She now lives in San Francisco.

Included in *Public and Private Journeys* is a portion of Yung's installation *Moral Tales*. Using objects as diverse as chairs, tables, Chinese herbs, player piano rolls, sardine tins, and fortune cookie fortunes, Yung has created a catalyst for contemplation.

"I deal with areas, details, viewpoints, and ultimately experiences," she says, "and I make connections between materials and narrative, ideas and feelings, the personal and the universal." She hopes to give viewers "an internal sense of recognition so that they become participants in the work, become involved in their own awareness, and so, in the end, arrive at their own conclusion."

Moral Tales is informed by the culture of Yung's childhood in Hong Kong. The first is about a simple Chinese folk rite which relates to the idea of destiny. The second deals with the Confucian work

ethic, and the third, with percepts of propriety and acceptability in marriage. All three make extensive use of the color red, a color deemed auspicious in Chinese culture.

The public is invited to a reception to meet the artists on Wednesday, October 27, 6-8. The event will take place at the Euphrat Museum of Art and is free-of-charge. The Euphrat is wheelchair accessible.

Press photographs are available.

For more information or to schedule group tours, please call (408)864-8836.

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Contact: Jan Rindfleisch (408)864-8836



NEWS RELEASE

December 1, 1993

For Immediate Release

Press release on art museum:

The Euphrat Museum of Art: A College/Community Partnership

Museum Hours: **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11-4**
 Wednesday evening 6-8
 Saturday 11-2
 Before selected Flint Center events

The Euphrat Museum of Art has a unique approach to making art relevant in our lives. As a partnership between De Anza College and the local community, the Euphrat brings together artists, educators, community activists, students, corporate representatives, and government officials. Exhibitions often focus on ideas and issues of the day.

Each exhibition begins with staff posing and researching a question. Staff then calls upon artists, patrons, critics, academicians, and others of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds to consider this question. Since the museum has no predetermined ideas about what the answers are, participants' reflections tap into new ideas, unusual art sources, and vastly different points of view, which often alter assumptions about the exhibition.

In addition to visual arts exhibitions, the Euphrat provides a forum for discussion with periodic panel discussions, workshops, lectures, poetry readings, and slide shows which complement exhibitions. Often the Euphrat publishes books in conjunction with exhibitions.

The Euphrat also presents a multicultural Arts & Schools Program serving 20,000 children, youth, and adults annually. Among its offerings is a year-long art education program for Cupertino Union and Sunnyvale School District schools with large numbers of "at risk" students. Each spring the Euphrat presents exhibitions of work by local elementary and high school students as well as by De Anza College students.

The Euphrat takes a regional approach to serving Santa Clara County residents. It is supported by the Cities of Cupertino, Los Altos, and Sunnyvale as well as a Board of distinguished community leaders. The Arts Council of Santa Clara County, California Arts Council, and National Endowment for the Arts also support the Euphrat as do numerous foundations, corporations, and individuals.

Admission is free of charge with a suggested donation of \$1.00.

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Contact: Jan Rindfleisch