

NEWS RELEASE
December 15, 1999

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

in partnership with the

Euphrat Museum of Art

Art Exhibition:

The Outsiders and Elegance in Nature

featuring

Seven plein-air painters: Nikki Basch-Davis, Warren Dreher, Pam Glover, Ray Jackson, Judy Molyneux, William Rushton, Jerrold Turner

and

Sculptor: Sharon Chinen

Sunnyvale Creative Art Center Gallery
550 E. Remington, Box 3707
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

January 13 - March 4, 2000

Tuesday and Thursday 11 - 5 pm, Wednesday and Friday 1 - 5; Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

Artist reception January 21, 6-8 pm

The Outsiders and Elegance in Nature joins artwork by a group of plein-air painters with sculpture by Sharon Chinen, whose artistic response to nature occurs primarily in the studio. Processes and approaches are different, yet the artworks complement each other, raising questions about how we choose to perceive the world outside our homes. What the artists all share is a reverence for life, and a desire to explore and experience it fully.

The Outsiders

The Outsiders are seven plein-air painters living in the greater Bay Area. Their name reflects both the form of the painting they do — outdoor or plein-air — and also their placement away from more traditional landscape painters. Dragging their boards, canvases, and easels into the hills or to the seashore, they paint to be "out" in the world, to feel the energy of nature. They merge paint and canvas with brushstrokes capturing the light and mood of a particular place and time. Their bold use of color and loose style is inspired by early colorists, like the Society of Six, active in the Bay Area in the early part of the 1900s. For example, Outsider **Pam Glover** was introduced to plein-air painting by Society of Six member Louis Siegrist and his son Lundy Siegrist, whom she accompanied on painting excursions in the East Bay hills and historic towns in the 1970s. **Jerrold Turner** also painted

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(408) 730-7731 For Deaf access call TDD/TTY 408-730-7501
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with the Siegrists. The inspiration continues, and one or another will often carry around Nancy Boas's book *The Society of Six: California Colorists*.

Turner initiated The Outsiders in the early '90s. Most have now been painting together at least since the '80s. The group has been more formalized in recent years, with **Nikki Basch-Davis** as organizer, and they show together and plan various activities as well as paint together outdoors.

Ray Jackson and Pam Glover love the excitement of painting, that in a few minutes a painting can have a life of its own. Nikki Basch-Davis chooses scenes for mood and light, and feels capturing it on canvas is her only way to experience it fully. **Warren Dreher** began painting over thirty years ago, creating a visual journal marking his days: the way the river looked at three o'clock on Monday or 6 o'clock on Tuesday. **Judy Molyneux** paints to feel the fog, smell the grass, sense the struggle, beauty, and ecstasy that sings in the wind. Jerrold Turner says, "Every day is a new beginning, every painting is like for the first time." Art has led him to a love of life and teaching.

Art, love of life, and teaching are primary to **William Rushton** as well. Talking about his art, he states, "Sometimes it feels like there's someone else inside of me painting, and I don't know what he's going to do or how he's going to do it. I just try to stay out of the way." Rushton's art is multifaceted and always probing. At one point he created an installation of an old barn, including live chickens, at Works Gallery in San Jose. Every year at Cupertino High School in Cupertino he challenges his students, and the art they produce is daring, using even the simplest of materials, cardboard towers, florescent paints.

Elegance in Nature

Across the county, from her studio in Palo Alto, **Sharon Chinen** carefully builds sculptures of the natural world: *Cactus at Kihei*, *Autumn Leaves*, *Bulbs*. She works with papier mâché, wire, wax, paint, plaster, wood, branches, and sometimes even garden ties, creating forms that evoke "some deeper, undefined emotion and contain the simplicity and elegance inherent in nature." Her concerns are survival, cycles of growth and decay, freedom and constraint between the individual and society, and fostering reverence for the mystery of life. Her work chronicles her present experience which she feels is strongly influenced by growing up close to the land in Hawaii — volcanoes erupting, the harvests, a land alive. "The filters I look through come from coexisting with neighbors of different Eastern cultures who were being assimilated into a Western Culture in a natural environment of unequaled beauty and power."

The Outsiders and Elegance in Nature was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art.

Sponsored by City of Sunnyvale, Department of Parks and Recreation, Arts & Youth Services, in collaboration with the Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino.

Contact:

For information about the exhibition, call the Euphrat Museum of Art at (408) 864-8836.
To schedule tours or for gallery information, call the Creative Arts Center Gallery at (408) 730-7731.

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