

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

in partnership with the

Euphrat Museum of Art

NEWS RELEASE

December 10, 1996

Art Exhibition:

Land Values:

Taiwan, Land and Heritage, drawings by Mynor King

Spring Leaves and Mountain Journeys, photographs by Rebecca Palmer

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

Jan.10 - Mar. 8, 1997

Tuesday, Thursday 11 - 5 pm, Wednesday, Friday 1 - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 12 noon

Land Values: Taiwan, Land and Heritage, drawings by Mynor King; Spring Leaves and Mountain Journeys, photographs by Rebecca Palmer is a two person exhibition at the Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery offering two very different ways of valuing land. Mynor King's watercolor drawings of rural activities in Taiwan before World War II, depict land as a container of childhood memories and information about an earlier work and cultural life. Rebecca Palmer's photographs of plant life and land in California present land in terms of sites for meditation and finding meaning and rich associations in the light and dark of nature.

The exhibition *Land Values: Taiwan, Land and Heritage...Spring Leaves and Mountain Journeys* was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art. It is presented in conjunction with a larger *Land Values* exhibition, nearby at the Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, with an overlapping but slightly longer time frame, February 20 - April 16, 1997.

Mynor King looks at Taiwan during the fifty years of Japanese occupation before World War II, when cities were modernized but the countryside retained traditional scenery and customs. His detailed drawings form several series, such as *Farmers of the Four Seasons, Town and Country Professions,* and *Childhood Memories.* He describes irrigation, planting, and harvesting of rice. He shows older methods of transportation by water or buffalo-drawn carts — including a unique rail system, with people pushing the cars. He illustrates memories of making turtle rice cakes (for a harvest festival like Thanksgiving) and memories of children catching crickets with bottles held over cricket holes in the ground. The artwork is accompanied by extended explanations of the activities, both in Mandarin and English for the overseas Taiwanese younger generation and for international communities. Most of the subjects are from King's childhood memories or sketches made over the years. They are composites, capturing aspects of different activities along with seasonal changes in the land, all pulled together with his understanding of having been there and participated.

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery, 550 E. Remington, Box 3707, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707
(408) 730-7731 For Deaf access call TDD/TTY 408-730-7501
Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA 95014 (408)864-8836

Since 1970, major construction has occurred in Taiwan's cities, and King notes that environmental concerns have been disregarded, natural habitats and their beauty lost, and historical and cultural markers destroyed. King feels the present generation loses something by not knowing the scenery or the Taiwanese culture in which their parents and grandparents lived. He speaks of the need to preserve the "independent root of The Sweet Potato (Taiwan)."

Dr. Mynor King was born in 1936 and brought up in Taiwan, living in the countryside between ages nine and eleven. He received a B.S. in physics in Taiwan, and in 1962 came to the U.S. for graduate studies. Since then he has received several M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in science and engineering. He has drawn since the age of four but never received formal art training. Since 1991, he has focused on depicting and preserving Taiwanese heritage: "the land and its people."

Rebecca Palmer's photographs are taken from local sites on the Peninsula and from treks in the high Sierras near Lake Tahoe, close to the timberline where life is tenuous. But the emphasis is less on a certain landscape than on land and its plant life as sites for contemplation, inquiry, and revelation. In particular, Palmer studies sunlight and shadow, such as the filtering of sunlight through foliage, or the progression of dark shadowy areas caused by clouds — investigating the associations and meanings we find in light and dark in nature.

The photographs are taken in infra red film, which is sensitive to heat as well as light. It shows living foliage to be light colored and animated. Palmer particularly likes "the sketchy, grainy quality of the film; sometimes it reminds me of a charcoal drawing. When printed in large sizes, the image tends to dissolve. This ambiguity appeals to me, and I think it suits the transitory aspects of nature."

The series *Spring Leaves* are closeups made in nearby gardens of magnolia, apricot, and plum trees, in areas where the plants grow freely and start to create their own environment. "It's often peaceful in these spots. It reminds me that the positive forces of nature are quietly at work. Spring comes. The leaves grow. Perhaps I can learn something." Many of the images from the series *Mountain Journey* are distance shots and refer to the dark side of nature. Trees grow slowly in high altitudes. "Most of these mountain images were made during the seven-year drought... The situation was an ongoing reminder of the destructive power of natural forces. The mountain environment seemed like all life: threatened, but also hopeful of survival."

Palmer has a B.A. from Stanford University and an M.F.A from San Jose State University. She lives in Los Altos.

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.

#####

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery, 550 E. Remington, Box 3707, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707
(408) 730-7731 For Deaf access call TDD/TTY 408-730-7501
Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA 95014 (408)864-8836

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

in partnership with the
Euphrat Museum of Art

NEWS RELEASE

March 1, 1997

Art Exhibition:

Perceptions:

Sculptural installations by Mari Andrews and Patricia L. Jauch

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

March 21 - May 10, 1997

Tuesday and Thursday 11 - 5 pm, Wednesday and Friday 1 - 5; Saturday 10 am - 12 noon

In *Perceptions*, a two-person exhibition at the Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery, artists **Mari Andrews** and **Patricia L. Jauch** create sculptural installations utilizing found objects, some from nature, some manufactured. Both see art as a manner of research and discovery. Jauch provides multifaceted and considerable study of the nature of perception. Andrews expands our perceptions and hers by attending to simple things such as sticks, stones, and beeswax. The exhibition *Perceptions* was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art as part of an ongoing series focusing on Bay Area artists.

Mari Andrews usually works with materials from nature: leaves, seeds, soil, wood. Her work is informed by her many travels around the West. In one unusual piece she suspended soil samples taken from all the different times she crossed the continental divide. In a way Andrews's work can be seen as broadening our perceptions and helping Mother Nature along with new shapes for our enjoyment. One viewer noted that Andrews can find beauty and inspiration in a stick on the ground; another said, "I never saw so many colors of dirt." In a different way, Andrews's process is a road to her own heightened awareness, perception, working in the moment, paying attention. She is open to new directions, personal discovery, and she loves to learn from the ground up, with the building blocks of nature.

Most often Andrews seeks objects with a linear quality and then expands upon this quality creating drawings in space. "I am learning to draw with found lines. These materials assert their own gestures, tensions, textures, shapes, elasticity — elements I cannot control. This forces me to let go of my normal expectations about drawing and allow the materials to inform the act of drawing. It becomes a collaboration with the found object. Many of the works take their shapes from patterns found in nature." Andrews leaves individual works untitled, only identified by numbers. But when they become an installation, they fill up the walls and become *Cluster* or *Swarm* — a wall of discoveries, some alluding to body shapes or structures.

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery, 550 E. Remington, Box 3707, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707
(408) 730-7731 For Deaf access call TDD/TTY 408-730-7501
Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA 95014 (408)864-8836

Andrews holds an MFA from Otis Art Institute of Parson's School of Design, Los Angeles, and lives in Emeryville.

Patricia L. Jauch uses found objects (she uses Duchamp's term of "assisted ready-made"), but starts with a definite subject, in this case perception and thinking. She asks questions: How do perceptions come about? What is the origin and nature of perception? While she works with the free association of assemblage, she also looks to history, connects various discoveries of the past with the future, and draws from science, natural history, anthropology, sociology, and ethnology.

"The purpose of perception is to allow patterns to form and to use them. This is a system which allows us to make sense of the world."

On blackboard surfaces, she has created line drawings for The Thinking of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato and such things as the Yes/No System. Some of the artworks are provocative little displays on cabinets, creating a strange natural-history-museum environment. She uses many materials and strategies to balance form with content, ranging from a tapestry to a hot water bottle. Several works are interactive, such as *Different Universe*, in which one drops marbles on passive and active surfaces. Titles often give clues: *Caged in by our Absolutes*. *A Mind Will Only See What It Is Prepared To See*, *Mirrors*. In *Catchment Funnel*, concepts are broad ideas which get narrowed down in a funnel to become labels.

Jauch holds an MFA in Spatial Studies from San Jose State University and lives in Cupertino.

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.

Mari Andrews is also represented in *Land Values*, nearby at the Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, with an overlapping but slightly different frame, Feb. 25 - April, 1997.

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.

#####

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery, 550 E. Remington, Box 3707, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707
(408) 730-7731 For Deaf access call TDD/TTY 408-730-7501
Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA 95014 (408)864-8836