

NEWS RELEASE  
October 1, 2002

## Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

In partnership with the  
Euphrat Museum of Art

Art Exhibition:

*Leticia Garcia*  
*Debra Koppman*  
*Donna Keiko Ozawa*

*Cycles, Recycles*

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery  
550 East Remington, Box 3707  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

November 1 - December 21, 2002

Closed Thanksgiving weekend

Tuesday and Thursday, 11-5; Wednesday and Friday 1-5; Saturday 10-12.

Reception: Thursday, November 14, 4 – 6 pm

In *Cycles, Recycles* three artists working with recycled materials make varied comments on life cycles.

**Donna Keiko Ozawa** creates a large installation of white picket fencing, whirligigs in cheerful colors, and Astroturf, reminiscent of Americana, ideal ways to raise a family, things people want to have. When a viewer walks by, motion detectors are activated, the whirligigs spin fast, and little "help" signs go up and down. The American dream — but there is something strange about the idea. Entitled *Help I*, it is both playful and ironic, simultaneously cheerful and a questioning of middle class identity and happiness. "It is a fabrication, a life people strive for. But it may not be achievable or desirable." Ozawa uses familiar forms "to question cultural values, how we raise children and how we live on a daily basis. I have felt the suffocating power of silence and denial in a community continually recovering from forced relocation by the U.S. government during World War II." Through the illusion of physical interaction with the sculpture, she poses questions about collective responsibility and messages from one generation to another.

**Leticia Garcia** exhibits a menagerie of stuffed animals, a comfort to children for generations. All are recycled. What is unusual is that Garcia has taken these old stuffed animals apart and reassembled

parts of one with parts of another or others. The results are curious. One animal has a third eye. One could be interpreted as Siamese twins. Fluffy limbs, tails, and ears abound. But while they are strange, they are also appealing. Garcia says they are "different" because she always felt different as a child. School life was one world, but when she came home it was a different world. Her family life seemed unlike that of any else's. So she decided to make stuffed animals for the child who feels different. They are playful yet they provoke thought about how children see the world, what their needs are growing up, and how adults can help a process, which can sometimes be very confusing and painful.

**Debra Koppman** takes recycled materials and completely transforms them. Using a fairly limited palette of reds, oranges, and black, and basic shapes for her dyed pulp, she builds inlaid surfaces for strange objects and creatures. With titles like *Star Gazer*, *I Wish*, *Red Spear*, and *Standing Tall Copper*, they have a mythic quality, something that draws from all sorts of sources, but is somehow completely its own thing. "I have been inspired by folktales which tell of fantastical creatures, powerful goddesses, and inanimate objects which come to life." In Koppman's work, discarded materials such as scraps of foam, cardboard tubes, toilet paper rolls, and crayon boxes become armatures. The original identity of materials is obscured or totally reconfigured through many layers of papier mâché and paper pulp. Materials often provide the basis for beginning a piece, and the piece emerges from an impulse to reuse a rejected item in a way that will "lead toward its redemption." "I create my parallel world of living beings, quirky in some way, almost off-balance, with patterns that loop back on themselves... Welcome to my world," she says. Playful and mysterious, it is a world that has appeal to all ages, as stories passed on from generation to generation. It is no wonder that Koppman also creates puppets from recycled materials and papier mâché, part of performance and workshops she does with children. Some of these are on display as well.

The exhibition was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art in conjunction with *Picking Up the Pieces*, held at the Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, with an overlapping timeframe, October 1 – November 27, 2002.

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 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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Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery, 550 East Remington, Box 3707, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707  
(408) 730-7331, For Deaf Access Call TDD/TTY (408) 730-7501  
Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 864-8836