

NEWS RELEASE
February 25, 2000

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

in partnership with the

Euphrat Museum of Art

Art Exhibition:

Still Lifes with Squirm, Wiggle, and Slug Fest

featuring

Painter Laura Parker

and

Sculptors Shelley Gardner and Ama Torrance

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

March 16 - May 6, 2000

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

Reception March 17, 6-8 pm

Still Lifes with Squirm, Wiggle, and Slug Fest features beautiful still lifes of fruit by Laura Parker accompanied by sculptures of nature — seeds and creepy crawlies — by Shelley Gardner and Ama Torrance. The exhibition combines technical expertise, love of materials, and fun, along with the metaphorical overlays we put on simple elements in our lives.

Painter **Laura Parker** exhibits cascades of fruit and vegetables: apples, lemons, radishes, tomatoes. Modular, in sizes up to 60", they are delicious pastels on paper, mounted on linen, behind a grid, giving them an elegance and the feel that one is looking through a window. Perhaps in France or Iowa. Parker relates, "I have been visiting the farmlands of France since 1992. The beauty and richness of the land reminds me of summers on our family farms in Iowa." On white backgrounds, loosely grouped, the painted fruit and vegetables are accompanied only by their shadows. Each individual fruit is completely individual and unique. Parker says, "For me they represent the past and the future. In our busy lives it is very easy to forget the profound pleasures of a peach." While one can focus on the forms, color, and beauty of the painting, of interest also are the interrelationships of the objects, as they allude to the pairings and social groupings of people. This is not surprising, since Parker is known for her figurative artwork as well. Parker dedicates the work to her grandmother "who was the first person to sit me down in a garden when I was a child."

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

Sculptor **Shelley Gardner** loves materials and has a facility in combining them. Moss, nuts, nutmeg, beans, seed pods, flowers, leaves, wood, and wax are joined with screen, fabric, acrylic fiber, and plastic. Her process mirrors the cyclical rhythms and slow cumulative processes of nature with multi-layered surfaces. Insubstantial matter coalesces into solid, enduring forms. *Agapanthus*, *Chestnut*, and *Fava* are fairly large seed forms at 2' to 4' long. *Squirm*, *Wiggle*, and *Twist* become much more lively in their gyrations on the wall. *Nematode* gives a sense of little creatures growing around us all the time. Together they project an appreciation of life forms with an acknowledgement of human impact on the landscape, environment, and the very life forms we revere.

The sculptures of **Ama Torrance** add humor, reality, and poignancy to this look at nature. Slugs are what we shy away from, perhaps the basis for a nightmare, yet also a basic factor in the life cycle that connects us, and victims of our poisons, our urban and suburban lifestyles. Torrance creates large slugs, from three to eleven feet long, from polyurethane foam, fiberglass, and styrofoam. She also makes slime trails in different colors and mediums (rubber, maps, stock quote pages) and sizes. Frequently the colors are iridescent, an almost obnoxious yellow or green. *Slug Fest* is a combination of these slow moving creatures. Torrance's menagerie includes *Banana Slugs*, *Garden Slugs* and *Woodpile Worms*.

Still Lives with Squirm, Wiggle, and Slug Fest 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.

#####

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