



EUPHRAT MUSEUM OF ART
De Anza College

Art Exhibition at New Euphrat Museum of Art Offers Refreshing Perspectives

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<http://www.deanza.edu/euphrat/>

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For Immediate Release

CUPERTINO—In February 2009, the Euphrat Museum of Art opened its doors to a brand new exhibition space that, along with a performance hall and an art history classroom, forms a vibrant Visual and Performing Arts complex at De Anza College. As we complete our inaugural year, the exhibition, *In Between: The Tension and Attraction of Difference*, and related programs highlight artists from Silicon Valley and the greater Bay Area who do or see things in a fresh way.

EVENTS:

Art Exhibition: *In Between: The Tension and Attraction of Difference*

Exhibition evolves with Special Projects through March 25th

Hours: 10-4, M-Th

Open to tours by appointment

For additional events, check the Euphrat Museum of Art website <http://www.deanza.edu/euphrat/>

WHERE: Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino, CA 95014

ART EXHIBITION:

The Euphrat Museum of Art at De Anza College serves a culturally diverse, technologically sophisticated, urban community undergoing rapid economic and social changes. Our second major inaugural exhibition, *In Between: The Tension and Attraction of Difference*, continues our examination of Silicon Valley's varied and colorful growth through visual media and shared narratives.

Artists include Marlene Angeja, Mei-Chu Chang, Sam Hernandez, Bu Hua, Ken Lo, Abraham Menor, Minette Lee Mangahas, Penny Nii, Ricardo Richey, Lucy Sargeant, Imin Yeh, Xudong Yu, and more.

In Between is a gathering of artists who do or see things in a fresh way, who investigate and rethink the status quo, upset common perceptions, embrace the unknown, and change the game. It is language-oriented, yet not confined by language. Age-old tradition is combined with street art, technology, animation, music, etc. *In Between* brings together people from different generations and cultures, working with different aspects of the



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community, stretching across boundaries. This outreach is nourished in the constantly re-inventive Silicon Valley and in the vibrant Bay Area, where tradition and new ideas abound.

Front View

Hawaiian-born **Minette Lee Mangahas'** project, *Calligraffiti*, involves graffiti artists from around the country. *Exquisite Corpse* is based on a collaborative game; the images are collectively assembled, with each collaborator adding to the composition. The artists included **Amend One**, **Desi W.O.M.E**, and **Denz** (Oakland), **Apex** (SF), **Coby Kennedy** (NY), **Lucha** (NY + SF), **Zen One** (Minneapolis), and **Toons One** (LA).

http://www.headlands.org/event_detail.asp?key=20&eventkey=266 <http://brushsong.com/home.html>

Ricardo Richey (Apex) has created a special window painting for Front View.

West Gallery — Poetry and Grammar

Mei-Chu Chang is a well-known Chinese calligrapher and seal engraver from Taiwan currently living in the Bay Area. A student of master Bei-Yue Wang, he has been giving calligraphy classes in the Bay Area for ten years. Beginning in 2008, Chang started a series of breakthrough pieces. His unique compositions elevate the life of the bold, black brushstroke and place it in a new environment. <http://www.cccgallery.org/profile/zhngmij>

Painter **Lucy Sargeant's** large portrait faces of artist friends are often notable San Jose State University professors who have helped shape the Bay Area artistic landscape. Her painting *David M.* is of sculptor and professor David Middlebrook, who created a major bronze public sculpture on the De Anza campus. Sargeant catches his inner reflection. Likewise with her portrait of poet and professor Virginia de Araujo. Sargeant builds up form through brushstrokes; then the artwork takes on a life and poetry of its own. <http://lucysargeant.com/>

The free-standing sculptures of **Sam Hernandez**, professor of sculpture at Santa Clara University, are illuminated by his study of many different cultural traditions. His large wall piece, *Dichos y Bichos*, combines a long list of folk wisdom in Spanish. The work is flanked by *Homage*, a free-standing totemic Chinese scholar-stone work of redwood, with inlaid pool balls in the base for nodules. <http://www.samhernandezart.com/>

The unusual books of **Penny Nii** are investigations in form, ideas, and the passage of time. Her book, *Pic to Words*, is comprised of pictographs, Chinese/Japanese ideograms, and drawings. It utilizes Gocco prints and a type of accordion/concertina structure. *Yen for Death* is in the form of a Japanese funerary urn that opens to create an altar. <http://www.penny-nii.com/Site/PennyNii.html>

Entrada

Imin Yeh's traditional woodcut prints are a platform to take off to new realms. "Utilizing history, subtle humor, exchange and generosity, social intervention and technical craft," her work opens lively dialog on cultural understanding, playing with subjects such as "good imports" and "student loans." The images range from comforting patterns to Benjamin Franklin to power animals of the zodiac, but with a twist: Year of the Pill Bug, Year of the Three-Toed Sloth, and Urban Street Pigeon, etc. <http://iminyeh.com/>



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South Gallery — *Double Nature Multi-Faced*

Marlene Angeja exhibits several abstract paintings, bold in color and brushstroke. *Island* is a video project using archival footage (1953-58) of the Azores Islands, which lie in the unstable junction between the North American, Eurasian and African tectonic plates. Angeja's mother and her brother recorded the eruption of Capelinhos volcano. Today, the video composite is about the idea of island from an emigrant's point of view, which involves a profound sense of nostalgia (*saudade*) for the lost landscape. <<http://marleneangeja.com/>>

Bu Hua (Beijing, China) recently exhibited a short animation in San Francisco. Entitled *Anxiety*, it is about the anxiety that comes from desire and greed, societal status, and about a lone little girl with a wand who with "pure noble thoughts and feelings" goes about saving animals. The core of her work is about "the heart." An earlier animation, *Oneness*, features four figures on a "Journey to the West." Each figure is different, yet sometimes we find their characteristics in the same person. "Everybody is multi-faced."

Yu Xudong (Guangzhou, China) exhibits simple signs, all with the letter "a." In *One Person's Parade* (his take on China's Parade law), he has photographed himself all alone with a megaphone, determinedly holding his sign high in various safe parts of China — in the middle of an empty warehouse, in the middle of an empty street, standing atop some nondescript low building. In China he can't protest. His simple signs, leaning against the museum wall, reference a much larger relationship between the individual and public.

Abraham Menor lives in Silicon Valley. He is an edgy photographer, an "at-risk" youth case manager, and a community organizer/worker affiliated with Silicon Valley DeBug. With a background in sociology, he began documenting graffiti as a way to examine social behavior. His blog is Brainsoiled. Keepitsoiled — stay grounded. He has documented various social and political movements. As a participant and observer, Menor captures lived moments, raw and real. He combines his photos with music or alters them with artist Shorty Fatz.

Ken Lo, an Asian b-ball legend at 5'7" who ran with Kobe, creates a special installation. K. Lo is a straight shooter: "I'd like to think the quality of your game was all that mattered." So he lays it out: "You are not anyone unless you have a name, and you're not a name that means anything unless you have a shoe." Through video (*The Rice Balla Chronicles*), poster, *SLAM* interview, and an elaborate storefront display (balla cards, radical Chinese paper cutouts and grillwork, Lucky Feet Happy Shoes T shirt, and more), you can check out the man and the all-important shoes. <http://www.yelp.com/biz/lucky-feet-happy-shoes-san-francisco>

Come On Down!

- Come On Down! is a multi-purpose project space that includes a collaborative communal area for connecting visual and oral history, and an experimental exhibition area for the results of interactive projects. Part of this campus/community space will feature frequently changing artwork. Presentations include:
- **Student Activity: Santa Clara County high school students in the Summer Bridge Program** for foster youth (developed by **Donna Fung**) at De Anza created (*Super*)*heroes*. Working with Euphrat staff, they examined qualities of heroism in their own lives and in the lives of those around them. They built powerful mixed-media art pieces, using words, poetry, images, paint, and sections of recycled doors.



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- **Publications:** This area is also used for study and research. Several publications are on display, including *Present Tense* and *The Fourth R: Art and the Needs of Children and Youth*.

The exhibition was curated by Jan Rindfleisch, along with the artists and with Nancy Hom, Abby Chen, Robin Treen, Jianhua Shu, and others. Works by Bu Hua, Ken Lo, Imin Yeh, and Yu Xudong were shown at the Chinese Culture Center in the *Present Tense: Chinese Character* exhibition, which reflected a fresh perspective through the eyes of young artists. <http://presenttense.us/artists/>

ABOUT THE EUPHRAT MUSEUM OF ART

For over 30 years, the Euphrat Museum has presented one-of-a-kind exhibitions, publications, and events reflecting the rich diverse heritage of our area. The Museum's mission is to provide a venue and resource for visual ideas and communication that stimulate creativity and an interest in art among audiences of all ages. The Euphrat provides for a spectrum of interactions with a large and diversified public, working on and off campus with specialists in all disciplines. The Museum has an outstanding Arts & Schools Program, primarily in Cupertino and Sunnyvale, at various school and community sites. Each year the Museum creates public art projects involving elementary and middle school students, De Anza student interns, and Euphrat artist/teachers.

The new Euphrat Museum of Art is part of the new De Anza College Visual and Performing Arts Center, prominently facing Stevens Creek Blvd. The Euphrat is funded in part by De Anza College, De Anza Associated Student Body, City of Cupertino, City of Sunnyvale, and Arts Council Silicon Valley. It is also supported by an Applied Materials Excellence in the Arts grant and Adobe Systems Inc. grant (both in partnership with Arts Council Silicon Valley), by Target, and by the Euphrat Museum Advisory Council and Friends of the Euphrat Museum.

For further information see <http://www.deanza.edu/euphrat/> or call Jan Rindfleisch at 408 864-8836

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