

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

in partnership with the

Euphrat Museum of Art

NEWS RELEASE

October 14, 1997

Art Exhibition:

Life Clusters — Honoring One Another

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

October 24 - December 13, 1997

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

The exhibition *Life Clusters — Honoring One Another* at the Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery hints at the complexities of relationships between art, artists, and art organizations. The commemorative installation *Walk in My Shoes 1997, Part II*, was created by Dawn E. Nakanishi and Terry Acebo Davis, long-time members of the Asian American Women's Art Association (AAWAA). A recent member of AAWAA, Irene Poon exhibits photographs from a series honoring Asian American elders in the artworld. Bob Hsiang also exhibits documentary photographs of the Asian American arts community. Hsiang has had a long association with Kearny Street Workshop (KSW) in San Francisco, now celebrating its 25th anniversary — the oldest surviving multidisciplinary Asian American arts organization in the United States. Nancy Hom, director of KSW, has created many silkscreen posters over the years for community groups.

For the artists, the art organizations are focal points for art activity, idea exchange, and support, that weave in complex ways with friends, colleagues, family, and community. The exhibition *Life Clusters — Honoring One Another* was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art. It is presented in conjunction with a larger *Life Clusters* exhibition, nearby at the Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, with an overlapping time frame, Oct. 7 - Nov. 26.

Dawn E. Nakanishi's and **Terry Acebo Davis's** installation *Walk in My Shoes 1997, Part II*, is comprised of numerous donated things, representative of the artists' sense of Asian American history and community which has been integral to the growth of the Bay Area. To acquire the shoes Nakanishi and Acebo Davis worked with contacts built up over the years with the above organizations and with other arts and community organizations. The work became particularized to Sunnyvale as Nakanishi recounted her mother's twenty some years working at the Sunnyvale Library and the artists decided to dedicate this work to "mothers." The work was originally installed at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco as part of the Filipino American Arts Exposition in August.

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

Irene Poon has photographed some of the esteemed Asian American artists whose art and arts organizing has influenced and paved the way for the next generation, such as Bernice Bing and Flo Oy Wong. Bing, a noted painter utilizing calligraphy in her abstract oils, was one of the founders of South of Market (SOMAR) Cultural Center in San Francisco. Wong, a nationally known installation artist, who resides in Sunnyvale, helped found AAWAA and has served on the board of the national Women's Caucus for Art. Poon was co-curator, along with Dawn Nakanishi, Mark Johnson, and Diane Tani, of the exhibition *With New Eyes: Toward an Asian American Art History in the West* at San Francisco State University. Poon's photographs complement a major research project with the University. They will be published in book form.

Bob Hsiang has also produced numerous documentary photographs. Often tied to events or programs of Kearny Street Workshop and various arts organizations, they go back to when KSW was located in the International Hotel and offered workshops free-of-charge to community members in Chinatown/Manilatown. The series of jazz artists was created in conjunction with the Asian American Jazz Festival; KSW is coproducer. The photos of Mount Shasta Taiko were taken for a KSW book project. Hsiang remembers the richness of the early days in contact with a lot of other photographers. He was an amateur musician when the Festival started: "They were pioneers, forging a new identity and art form — an Asian influence in jazz."

Nancy Hom's art is inspired by community life. Her work with arts organizations dates to the early '70s in New York when she cofounded the Asian American Media Collective. Besides continual involvement in KSW, she has participated in Asian American Writers Workshop and Unbound Feet, a six-member Chinese Women's writing group. Poster artist, writer, designer, and children's book illustrator, Hom's interests parallel the multidisciplinary KSW, which has pioneered some of the most innovative and influential forms of Asian American art, including jazz, silkscreen posters and prints, public murals, and historical research and exhibitions on such subjects as the Chinese Detention Center on Angel Island. Hom exhibits posters, personal art, and a self-portrait created for her latest book *Just Like Me* (Children's Book Press), a collaborative project with 13 other artists, combining self-portraits with written text.

The exhibition *Life Clusters — Honoring One Another* was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art as part of an ongoing series focusing on Bay Area artists.

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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