



EUPHRAT MUSEUM OF ART

De Anza College

The Inaugural Art Exhibition at New Euphrat Museum of Art Honors Silicon Valley's Diversity

March 27, 2009

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

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For Immediate Release – EXTENDED DATES

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. The move is celebrated with an inaugural exhibition at the new headquarters in Cupertino. The exhibition, *Looking Back, Looking Ahead* and related programs bring to light the stories of Silicon Valley's artists, residents and groups.

Inaugural Art Exhibition:

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Feb. 17 - Apr. 16, 2009 EXTENDED TO APRIL 24

(Closed spring break, March 30 - April 4)

Hours: 10 – 4, M-Th

Open to tours by appointment

Reception with the Artists: Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

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

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

INAUGURAL 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. *Looking Back, Looking Ahead* is an eclectic look at Silicon Valley's varied and colorful growth through visual media and shared narratives. This inaugural exhibition honors our past and looks to the future as we weave together the stories of artists and the stories of Silicon Valley residents and groups in an effort to understand the fascinating community that we are situated in. This is Silicon Valley. "This is our story, your story," said long-time Museum Executive Director Jan Rindfleisch.

Artists include Paul Pei-Jen Hau, Agnes Pelton, Thai Bui, Rene Yung, Angela Buenning Filo, Consuelo Jimenez Underwood, Charisse Domingo, Mike Arcega, Shorty Fatz, Samuel Rodriguez, Matthew Rodriguez, and more.



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West Gallery — *Mountain Light Stone*

Featuring Paul Pei-Jen Hau, Agnes Pelton, Thai Bui

The honored artist for *Looking Back, Looking Ahead* is world-renowned painter **Paul Pei-Jen Hau**, who has a museum named after him in eastern China. Opened in 2002, the Hau Pei-Jen Art Museum contains many of his artworks and art from his personal collection. Hau's bold watercolor and ink paintings bridge cultures of East and West, with references that range from the Ming dynasty to the vanguard of Western abstraction. His work has been exhibited widely. Born in 1917 in Liaoning Province, Hau studied in both China and Japan. In 1956 he moved to California to teach at the Pacific Art League in Palo Alto. He lives in Los Altos and has taught locally for over 50 years. He has published three novels, a history of sociology, and a book on Chinese art. At age 92, he still visits China. A conversation/celebration with the artist is planned.

Agnes Pelton (1881-1961) was born in Stuttgart, Germany. She studied at the Pratt Institute in New York. In the 1920s she focused on abstraction and joined with the Transcendental Painting Group. Known as a "Poet of Nature," her mystical landscapes, many created after her move in 1931 to Cathedral City, California, suggest a meditative world where East meets West. Pelton was relatively unknown in the early 1980s. The Euphrat Museum publication, *Staying Visible* (1981), includes a section on her life and work. In the course of research, the Euphrat acquired a small collection of Pelton's work. Since then, Pelton has been the subject of growing scholarship. Today Pelton's art stands alongside American legend Georgia O'Keeffe's. Pelton's *Light Center*, owned by the Euphrat, will be part of a traveling exhibition: *Georgia O'Keeffe, Agnes Pelton, Agnes Martin, and Florence Pierce*, organized by the Orange County Museum of Art. *Light Center* will be shown at the Euphrat in February/March, after which it will be on tour.

Visually simple and intellectually complex, **Thai Bui's** sculpture connects Eastern philosophies and several Western art movements: Minimalism, Funk, and Conceptual. Originally from Vietnam, Bui came to the U.S. in 1981 and received his MFA from Stanford University in 1992. His series, *Needed*, a poetic grouping of stones, not only relates to close personal relationships but also to our relationship with others and to nature. The concepts cross multiple boundaries. In *Needed*, stones are linked as male/female pairs. For a ceiling installation, half of each stone pair is suspended in a Haiku form. The other half is supported by its link.

South Gallery — *Story Lines*

Everyday stories are tangible in **Rene Yung's** major installation *...anges and disappearances*. A low wall made of 400 bars of soap imprinted with the word "Remember" sits on a weathered wooden platform. Towels imprinted with words of personal memories and official identity hang on a nearby clothesline. A stool and wash basin beckon you to sit down, wash a towel, and hang it up on the clothesline. With use, the words on the soap and towels fade away, symbolizing the erasure of cultural memory of 19th century immigrants, such as the 15,000 Chinese who helped build the Transcontinental Railroad, the Chinese who worked the mines, and ran laundries when prohibited by law to own land. Their overlooked stories resonate in today's immigration debate. We will work with Yung and others on campus and in the community to capture the histories and stories of today, and to connect them with our visual life.



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Change is rapid in Silicon Valley. **Angela Buenning Filo's** photographs give the sense of news today, history tomorrow. Images include an electromagnetic emissions testing site in Mountain View and a dismantled server room in Sunnyvale. Juxtaposed are her images from Bangalore, India's Silicon Valley. Among these are the lobby of a 24-7 customer service and the entrance to Electronic City. Many of the Silicon Valley scenes are devoid of people. Her scenes capture the uncertainty of investment and return as jobs and buildings appear and disappear. Some of the Bangalore images reflect the stark contrast between current technology and everyday life.

Consuelo Jimenez Underwood lives in Cupertino. She has been a professor in textiles at San Jose State for many years. On exhibit will be a Mexican American flag with the Sunnyvale Libby Fruit Cocktail can landmark in the center. "My dad was a bracero in WWII. They never fully paid my dad. They paid Mexico." Underwood has many stories to share, including her international travels. These stories will lay the groundwork for a project that will be exhibited in the fall. Underwood has been chosen as a video subject for the American Craft Council.

De-Bug Silicon Valley uses a variety of media, from magazines to radio to web to sculpture, to tell stories of Silicon Valley. De-Bug is a collective of writers, artists, organizers, and workers based in San José. They are a project of Pacific News Service, a national news service. On exhibit will be **Charisse Domingo's** portraits of mothers who face family problems with the criminal justice system, juvenile hall, and deportation. Domingo also works with the Open Darkroom sponsored by De-Bug. De-Bug will do a presentation/workshop, and one of the groups affiliated with De-Bug, **Shorty Fatz**, will create a display in the Front View window.
<http://www.siliconvalleydebug.org/>

Entrada

Military garment and ceremony get a contemporary makeover with two works by **Mike Arcega**. They have special resonance with De Anza College, which is named after Juan Bautista de Anza, and with its central location in Silicon Valley. *El Conquistador* assumes a pose like a security guardian or a welcoming figure. This humorous 6' suit of armor constructed of manila file folders comments on "the frailty of military might and the strength of trade." Arcega mocks a romanticized view of the conquistadores of old and comments on trade practices today. Close by is *Loping Honoring*. Here, technology complicates communication and identity and pokes at pride. For this multi-media work of video, audio, lyrics, text was generated by spell checking the national anthem of the Philippines, *Lupang Hinirang*, in Microsoft Word V.11.3. This text was then reapplied to the harmony of *Lupang Hinirang* and sung in an operatic voice.

Front View

Custom bike specialists **Shorty Fatz** will create a special Front View window installation with their signature bikes and cartoon characters. Samuel Rodriguez and Matthew Rodriguez create bikes unique in style and function. "Our goals are to create a stylish cruise with comfort and durability." The ubiquitous Shorty Fatz cartoon character has a story of its own. Ensnared in a showcase window, the custom bike speaks to individual dreams as well as to stylish transportation. This is one of Silicon Valley's new stories – building an art company and reaching out to youth with graphics and bike workshops. A mini-residency with the artists is being planned.



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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 space for campus and community will feature frequently changing artwork. Presentations in this area for early 2009 will include:

- **Mapping Project:** In this **California History Center (CHC)** interactive project, viewers describe a special place in Silicon Valley where something very significant happened and connect it to a map.
- **Student Activity: Marc Coronado and Karen Chow's ;LEAD! Winter 2009 EWRT 1A classes** present *Picturing Our Communities*, a photo and narrative slideshow on computer. Students took photos and wrote essays about their communities, and addressed how immigration impacts these communities.
- **Student Activity: Juliana Kang's Winter Intermediate Drawing class.** *Drawing from History*, artwork about local family history and change, drawing from Silicon Valley artifacts and photographs.
- **Adjunct Exhibits:** In February an artwork from *The X-Ray Project* is shown, related to an exhibition co-sponsored by the Euphrat Museum of Art and taking place concurrently in the De Anza Library.
- **Flat Files:** This exhibition opportunity is for prints, photographs, and other flat artwork for scholarship and discussion. Some flat file exhibitions are available by appointment.
- **Publications:** This area is also used for study and research. Related publications will be on display, including *Agnes Pelton, Poet of Nature, 1995*.

The inaugural exhibition was curated by Jan Rindfleisch, working with the artists and with Nancy Hom, Tom Izu, Jianhua Shu, and others. Collaborators include Silicon Valley DeBug, California History Center, De Anza ;LEAD! Program, Creative Arts Division, Intercultural and International Studies Division, Institute for Community and Civic Engagement, and more. Program development with Euphrat Advisory Council, Euphrat Program Committee, and Euphrat staff.

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 in the front of the new De Anza College Visual and Performing Arts Center, prominently located 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, Arts Council Silicon Valley, 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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