



MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS RELEASE
November 16, 1995

For Immediate Release

Press Release for Art Exhibition **DATE CHANGE — EXTENSION OF SHOW:**

Youth Art/Changing Lives

October 12, 1995 - January 18, 1996

Closed Thanksgiving weekend

Closed for the holidays, December 10 - January 9

Museum Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11-4
Tuesday evening 6-8, Saturday 11-2
Open to tour groups by appointment

Focused on youth-art programs from the Greater Bay Area, *YouthArt/Changing Lives* weaves together images, words, sounds and experiences of young people and the artists who work with them. *Youth Art* includes a portable mural, paintings, drawings, text, photo-documentation, and a schedule for CD-ROMS, videos, and participatory events for young people and adults — for example, Internet access to a new Web site. Viewers need to contact the Euphrat for the time schedule.

The 20' long portable mural, *Definition of a Struggle*, was designed and painted by young artists in the Community Arts Apprenticeship Program (CAAP) in Oakland. Says young artist Tina Gallegos, "When you take sixteen different artist personalities and put them in a room for an extended period of time to work as a unit, conflict is bound to arise. But through the conflict came *Definition of a Struggle*. Some of the images are quite silent while others are being shouted out for the world to hear. If you look and listen hard enough, you'll hear many of the silent thoughts start to shine through."

Included in the show is the art of some of the artists who worked with the youth. For example, interdisciplinary artist Toni Lane exhibits a series of pastels entitled *Dice Head Kids*. Lane is director of the Hayes Valley Art Learning Center and Ethnic Trip in San Francisco. She writes that "'Dice Head Kids' are like a role of the dice in a game of craps. Dice Heads are youth at odds with life; they are the gamble, not the gambler." *Youth Art* highlights how artworks by both the young artists and adult artists have been influenced by their interactions with each other.

We as a society remain unable to deal with, let alone adequately prepare for adulthood, the vast majority of our young people. To many, young people are mysterious, dangerous, unpredictable, hostile. They have few civil rights and almost no power. For the most part, the institutions we have created for

them punish, contain or otherwise modify their behavior to fit adult standards as quickly as possible.

The programs featured in *Youth Art/Changing Lives* have taken a different tack. Environmental, interdisciplinary, and interactive, the exhibition challenges visitors to consider their own attitudes toward youth, adulthood, and art.

Youth Art/Changing Lives foregrounds issues of culture that arise in the context of these youth arts programs. It gives examples of how art can change a life; how youth are involved in the conceptualization and implementation of an art project; and how differences of ethnic, class and gender culture are negotiated. We invite you to join us for an exciting and transformative experience.

The core programs featured in *Youth Art/Changing Lives* are Hayes Valley Art Learning Center, from San Francisco's Hayes Valley neighborhood; Community Arts Apprenticeship Program, from Oakland; White Hawk/Xuicoatl Arts from Watsonville; and D*Lab from the San Francisco Digital Media Center. Utilizing the visual, performing, and media arts, these programs provide opportunities for young people to explore new ideas and creatively express them. Through a variety of processes, all participants (youth, lead artists, community organizations) take away a stronger and clearer sense of themselves, their communities, and their cultures.

Other participating organizations include Berkeley-Oakland Support Services, East Oakland Youth Development Center, East Oakland Boxing Association, Electric Mercado (Santa Cruz), Youth of Oakland United.

Youth Art was curated by The Institute for Urban Arts — Juana Alicia, Mat Schwarzman, and Maria Luisa Mendonça — working with the Euphrat Museum staff.

Internet Connections

In conjunction with *Youth Art*, Electric Mercado, based in Santa Cruz, is collaborating with Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos (a non-profit organization aiming to end barrio violence among youth by providing them with alternatives) on creating the first of thirty Lotería cards that will be created by Latino youth nationwide. Lotería, a Mexican Bingo game, can be played online on Electric Mercado currently. When design work is completed, one will be able to find the first new Lotería card created by Latino youth by accessing Latino Juventud (Latino Youth) a category in the Electric Mercado Web site, <http://www.mercado.com>. One can find the Lotería game and the new card(s) and a call for other Latino youth contributors to join in creating a completely new Lotería deck.

Other Internet connections to a select number of youth organizations working with at-risk youth will be added during the show. **Please contact the Euphrat for times and locations of interactive components and scheduled events.** The Euphrat Museum of Art is located just east of Flint Center on the De Anza College campus. It is wheelchair accessible.

#####Press Contact: Jan Rindfleisch (408) 864-8836. Photos, Written materials available.