

# Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

in partnership with the

## Euphrat Museum of Art

NEWS RELEASE

October 13, 1995

### Exhibition:

*Terry Acebo Davis: Painting and Printmaking*

*Thai Bui: Sculpture*

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

October 28 - December 21, 1995  
Tuesday through Friday 1 - 5 pm, Saturday 10 am - 12 noon

Terry Acebo Davis presents painting and printmaking, and Thai Bui presents sculpture in a two-person exhibition at the Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery. Both artists utilize a wide range of references and allusions, starting with basic forms — such as found objects, printed matter, basic shapes — and building on personal experience. Both display technical skills and a joy in working with their materials, combining colors, shapes and textures for visual pleasure as well as suggestive nuance. The exhibition was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art, as part of an occasional series focusing on artists in Santa Clara Valley.

### **Terry Acebo Davis**

Many of Terry Acebo Davis's works refer to language. A series of abstract, oil-on-paper portraits about her family focuses on the letters of their first names ("F" for Frank, "G" for Grace). The letters have multiple meanings. The self-portrait with "T" can also refer to Saint Teresa of Avila, text, and teabag — tea being for Davis a meditative time set aside for healing. "M" is mother, Margaret, but also harvest moon, map, and music. The letters are not a simple formula, but a way to delve into new relationships. Each painting is a shrine to a person, centered on a stable pillar shape.

Davis's work is autobiographical, drawing on her identity as a woman of Filipina-Asian extraction, influenced by Euro-American contemporary thought. She probes Asian traditions and cultural politics, and she believes in "intuitive, spontaneous mark making...where structures evolve from the process of doing." Crosses, script, portraits, envelopes, and numbers refer to childhood memories and serve as "metaphors for religion, history, social mores, ritual, and caste."

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery, 550 E. Remington, Box 3707, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707  
(408) 730-7336 For Deaf access call TDD/TTY 408-730-7501  
Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA 95014 (408)864-8836

Her prints often include a combination of print media techniques. On exhibit is the 10' wide, abstract, calligraphic lithograph *Writhing*. Also displayed are the lithographs in the *Sakit* series, which include references to vessels, baskets, and weavings of the Philippines. The word "sakit" means pain — there is a pain to looking back. The works are textural and memory-laden.

Davis received her Master of Fine Arts degree from San Jose State University and lives in Palo Alto. She is a member of DIWA, a Filipino and Filipino-American artist collective, based in San Francisco and known for community-oriented installations.

## **Thai Bui**

Thai Bui exhibits a series of musical instruments, a way he says "to combine music and visual art, to create poetry — noting that the forms of sculpture can also be musical." Bui listens to music varying from Vietnamese folk songs to New Age music. Some of his artworks are reminiscent of the *dan bau*, a unique Vietnamese instrument with only one string. Others are more like Chinese instruments, mandolins, or harps. One has bullets at the base. Another a bird and feathers.

Some are bells made out of stone. The stones come from California beaches; the final form, however, relates to wooden temple bells in Vietnam. Bui sees them as a reminder of sorts. A monk who does not use his bell and pray/meditate, may find the bell has turned to stone. But Bui is also open to other associations — the saw-cut in the stone may suggest a mouth shape and a meditative sculpture may also appear as a comical frog.

The two-piece, wall sculpture *Twins* grew from Bui's intuitive, loving, and skillful use of materials. It is based on a branch found on the beach — a peaceful, inspirational, spiritual type of place for Bui. Part of the branch is left as is, while part is replaced as a concrete casting in a duplicate image; the background is steel. *Twins* plays with figure and shadow, what is real and what is cast, the sharing of characteristics — same yet different. The concrete and steel lend a feeling of strength to the organic branch.

Bui truly enjoys materials and craftsmanship. He often joins elements in unusual ways. "My sculptures are derived primarily from nature. The pace of my work is rapid and intense. Sometimes my work is planned, and I work from sketches to develop ideas. Often my work is a process of problem solving and incorporating accidents in a spontaneous way, working from the subconscious."

Thai Bui lives in Palo Alto and holds an M.F.A. from Stanford University.

Sponsored by City of Sunnyvale, Department of Parks and Recreation, Cultural Arts Division, 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) 730-7336.

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