

News Release

January 30, 2003

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

In partnership with the Euphrat Museum of Art

Art Exhibition:

Nature: A Mood, A Space, A Companion

Shari Arai DeBoer

Wynne Hayakawa

Joyce Hsu

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery
550 East Remington, Box 3707
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

March 14 – May 3, 2003

Tuesday and Thursday, 11-5; Wednesday and Friday 1-5; Saturday 10-12.

Reception: Friday, April 4, 5 - 8 pm

In *Nature: A Mood, A Space, A Companion* the artists exhibit paintings, prints, and sculpture related to our awareness of nature and the role of nature in our lives.

Shari Arai DeBoer depicts objects and plant life that have personal meaning to her, such as items used by her ancestors in their everyday lives as well as plants and flowers that she grew up with in her family's nursery business and garden. For example *Storage* is a subdued watercolor of pots, crates, and various containers on different levels of wooden shelves. Each artwork creates a mood, her vision of a serene moment. She melds watercolor, printmaking, and sumie — Japanese brush painting.

Some of **Wynne Hayakawa's** paintings are recognizable landscapes, such as *Tamalpais* or *Green Pond*. Others are stripes of multi-layered color that may remain dense and abstract or may open into landscape. "Generally, the stronger the color, the more dense the space. In the dense paintings, we are held and cradled. In the open paintings, we are in unlimited space." Hayakawa paints places that don't exist, places where viewers can exist for a while apart from the chaos of daily life. Abstract spaces, where "a vibration of color resonates with us." Hayakawa loves paint, whether working in oil or employing the monotype process, a hybrid of painting and printmaking.

A sharp contrast is the technological installation by **Joyce Hsu**. She has created a world of NaaBees, kinetic insect-like creatures that display characteristics such as aggression, curiosity, loyalty, and sociability. Her work explores the human desire for control and companionship. Pets. Electronic pets. Hsu employs a parody of marketing language, particularly that associated with children's toy product lines. She says, "It is a very empowering experience to imagine being able to control all these toys, that presumably will protect you from harm while being willing to become your best companion. The ugliness of our thirst for power is blurred by cuteness." Hsu's work can also be seen as a warning about our vulnerability to digital dependence, and our focus on materialism instead of a natural harmony.

The exhibition was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art in conjunction with *ReThinking Nature*, held at the Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, with an overlapping timeframe, February 20 – April 19, 2003

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 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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