

Artist Douglas Huebler's work on exhibit

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An exhibition of the work of conceptual artist Douglas Huebler will open March 2 in the Mandeville Art Gallery at the University of California, San Diego. The show will continue through March 25.

The gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday through Friday and from 7-10 p.m. Wednesday. A closing reception for the artist is scheduled from 7-9 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the gallery.

"The subject matter of Douglas Huebler is the everyday world, a series of apparently unconnected and intrinsically uninteresting situations presented with neutrality, a refusal to comment," said Jane Kelly of Studio International.

Huebler himself says that "The world is full of objects, more or less interesting: I do not wish to add any more. I prefer simply to state the existence of things in terms of time and place."

Huebler's work demands of the viewer an active and vivid attention. The viewer is the true subject of art, according to Huebler, and the work can only be realized through the imaginative participation of the viewer.

For example, a series of lines on paper appear to be of different lengths until the viewer is informed that the lines are all one inch long, but are positioned at different angles to the picture plane. The work then becomes three dimensional, with spatial aspects being supplied by the viewer.

In another series, Huebler presents maps on which he has diagrammed points and boundaries which form geometric patterns on the maps. Accompanying the maps are photographs of the locations corresponding to the points, or instructions detailing the preparation and placement of markers at these locations. This documentation is itself the work of art.

"Huebler is interested in extending the already limitless boundaries of art, not with making it more socially relevant," said Kelly. "His neutral position and tendency to work on a global scale reveal ... a detached position in which a subjective and often eccentric celebration of the complexities of the world disguises the real concern of his work, in which theoretical abstracts dominate."

The Huebler exhibition is sponsored by the Mandeville Art Gallery, the UC San Diego visual arts department and the University Events Office.

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