

Mandeville Gallery will exhibit works of New York School poet and artist Joe Brainard in collaboration with the UCSD Library

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UCSD MANDEVILLE GALLERY WILL EXHIBIT WORKS OF NEW YORK SCHOOL POET AND ARTIST JOE BRAINARD

The Mandeville Gallery, in collaboration with the UCSD Library, will exhibit art works by New York School artist and writer Joe Brainard, from Feb. 19-March 22, beginning with a public reception from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19 at the Mandeville Gallery. Brainard will give a poetry reading at 7:30 p.m. in the gallery.

The exhibition, "Joe Brainard: Selections from the Butts Collection at UCSD," focuses on a large gift of Brainard's works to the UCSD Library, in 1984 and 1986, from the Robert T. and Helen M. Butts Family Trust.

Brainard's reading on Feb. 19 in the gallery will be accompanied by art critic and poet Bill Berkson, who will also read. On Feb. 20, New York poets Kenward Elmslie and Anne Waldman will give text performances of their work, at 8 p.m. in the Mandeville Center Recital Hall.

The Butts Collection contains nearly 300 examples of Brainard's work, including drawings, paintings, collages, and assemblages; also book and cover illustrations, manuscripts, and published books. The exhibition at the Mandeville Gallery will also include art works borrowed from Brainard collectors in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City, and portraits of Brainard by Fairfield Porter and Don Bachardy. The UCSD Library will display a portion of the Butts Collection on the second floor of Central University Library.

Since 1961, Brainard has worked in New York City, often with poets, including Ron Padgett, Ted Berrigan, Dick Gallup, John Ashbery, Frank O'Hara, and other artists and writers of the New York School--influencing and being influenced by them.

Brainard has produced a wealth of work in 25 years, effectively harmonizing linguistic and visual materials. His graphic work is markedly literary, often incorporating words and sentences into non-literary designs. Brainard has illustrated several works for fellow poets Anne Waldman, Ron Padgett, Frank O'Hara and Peter Schjeldahl.

Brainard is the author of several books, among them "I Remember," "More I Remember," "Nothing to Write Home About," and, "Bolin's Journal." The "I Remember" books contain one-sentence fragments of such 1950's mementos as, "I remember when polio was the worst thing in the world." His erotic serial take off, in the late 1960s, of Ernie Bushmiller's cartoon strip, "Nancy," is a famous, scandalous work of that era. Brainard's recent work tends to focus on painting, collage and assemblage.

Bill Berkson, an associate of Brainard, is the author of many books of poems, including collaborations with Frank O'Hara ("Hymns of St. Bridget"). Berkson co-edited "Homage to Frank O'Hara" with Joe LeSueur, is the

editor and publisher of the Big Sky press, and is also an art critic. His most recent book of poems is called "Lush Life" (Z Press).

Kenward Elmslie has written opera libretti for American composers Ned Rorem ("Miss Julie"), Jack Beeson ("The Sweet Bye and Bye" and "Lizzie Borden") and Thomas Pasatieri ("The Seagull"). He is the author of six books of poetry, among them "The Champ," "Circus Nerves," and "Motor Disturbance," which won the Frank O'Hara Award in 1971. Elmslie's album, "Palais Bimbo Lounge Show," sports a cover by artist Red Groom.

Bill Berkson reported on Elmslie's presentation of song lyrics from "Palais Bimbo": "Elmslie took the stage in an outfit one hopes was successfully photographed...hand-painted boots, and an enormous headdress in the shape of a woman's head. Makeup, in particular some lurid, ineptly applied lipstick, and another hand-painted affair that, if worn in a hospital, would be called a gown.

Anne Waldman, a celebrated performance poet, has published several books of poems and collaborations, among them "Memorial Day," with Ted Berrigan, and "Sun the Blond Out." Her recent books are "Makeup on Empty Space" and "Invention." She has read with many contemporary poets, musicians and dancers, and has read and performed extensively with Allen Ginsberg in the United States and in Europe. Her MTV-style video tape, "Uh-Oh Plutonium!" earned her a first prize blue ribbon at the American Film Festival as part of the Manhattan Video Project. Waldman teaches at Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

There is no admission charge for these events, or for entry into the Mandeville Gallery. The gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Free parking is available on weekends.

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