

## **Artist Leonard Baskin to lecture May 9 at Friends of the UCSD Libraries meeting**

**May 6, 1996**

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An illustrated lecture by artist Leonard Baskin on "Poets at Gehenna, 1959-1995" will be presented at a May 9 meeting, open to the public, of the Friends of the UCSD Libraries at the University of California, San Diego.

The free lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Seuss Room of the Geisel Library.

In conjunction with the lecture, an exhibition of the Gehenna Press is being shown in the Geisel Library through June 30, 1996. The exhibition contains a selection of books, drawings, designs and other materials illustrating the creation and publication of books from Baskin's private press. UCSD is the inaugural site for this major exhibition.

Gerald Lowell, UCSD Librarian, noted that the vast contribution of the Gehenna Press over the past half-century is virtually unparalleled in the history of modern printing. Established in 1942 by Baskin, then an art student at Yale, the press has never strayed from its intended purpose of printing books of textual interest with illustrations of innovative grace and meaning.

Baskin also is widely known as a graphic artist and sculptor.

The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, he has won numerous honors and awards for his art. His work is included in the permanent collections of virtually every major museum, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Horshorn Museum, the National Gallery of Art and the British Museum. Among his current projects are the bas-reliefs for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Gehenna Press takes its name from a line in the first book of Milton's Paradise Lost: "And black Gehenna call'd, the type of Hell."

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