

University Art Gallery at UCSD to exhibit Crown Point Press retrospective June 27-Aug. 29

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Media Contact: Kathleen Stoughton, (619) 534-0419, kstoughton@ucsd.edu or

Pat JaCoby, (619) 534-7404, pjacoby@ucsd.edu

UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY AT UCSD TO EXHIBIT CROWN POINT PRESS RETROSPECTIVE JUNE 27-AUG. 29

Thirty-five Years at Crown Point Press: Making Prints, Doing Art will be on view June 27 through Aug. 29 in the University Art Gallery at the University of California, San Diego. A reception will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. June 27 in the gallery.

Thirty-five Years at Crown Point Press is a retrospective exhibition of the innovative works which have earned the San Francisco-based press and print workshop, founded in 1962 by Kathan Brown, an international reputation in fine arts publishing.

Brown will be among speakers at a 5:30 p.m. lecture in Robinson Auditorium, International Relations/Pacific Studies, prior to the reception. Also speaking will be artist and UCSD visual arts professor Italo Scanga, artist Pat Steir, and Karin Breuer, associate curator for the Achenbach Foundation of Graphic Arts in San Francisco. Both lecture and reception are free and open to the public.

The more than 40 works in the exhibition range in genre from minimalism and conceptual art to lyrical abstraction to photo realism and figurative images. Among artists represented are Scanga, Wayne Theibaud, Richard Diebenkorn, John Cage, Chuck Close, Francesco Clemente, Sol LeWitt, John Baldessari and William T. Wiley.

All works are drawn from the Crown Point Press Archive at the Fine Arts Museums (FAM) of San Francisco. The archive includes one impression of every print Crown Point Press has produced.

"The prints in the Crown Point Press Archive attest to the realization of Brown's belief that traditional mediums such as etching and woodcut can be vehicles for new artistic approaches," said the Achenbach Foundation's Breuer. "Remarkable results, from the crisp, precise lines and shapes required by minimalist artists such as Sol LeWitt, to the lush, transparent layers of color needed for the aquatints of Richard Diebenkorn and Wayne Thiebaud, were achieved in Crown Point's studio with skilled printers working under Brown's guiding premise: make the medium work for the artist."

Crown Point founder Brown learned etching at London's Central School of Arts and Crafts in the late 1950s. She acquired an etching press in Edinburgh, Scotland, and inspired by a 191 century photograph of the Crown Point Gold Mine in the San Francisco Bay area, established Crown Point Press in her East Bay home in Richmond, later moving it to Berkeley, Oakland and finally to its current Hawthorne Street location in San Francisco.

Brown began the operation as a community print workshop. It started publishing prints in 1965 with etching portfolios by Diebenkorn and Thiebaud. In 1971, Brown formed an alliance with Parasol Press in New York and subsequently began working with emerging East Coast minimalists including LeWitt. By the late 1970s Brown phased out of printing for other publishers and Crown Point Press was on its own publishing contemporary prints.

The press's first 20 years focused on etching. In 1982, Brown branched out into Asian woodcuts. Today, Crown Point Press publishes both mediums.

"Numerous artists over the years have said that what makes working with Crown Point and Kathan Brown so rewarding is that the emphasis has always been on the 'doing' (the artistic process), rather than on the 'making' (manufacturing),"said Breuer. "This exhibition is testimony to the remarkable people who have made Crown Point Press such an extraordinary place."

The University Art Gallery is located at the west end of Mandeville Center on the UCSD campus in La Jolla. Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment for groups of 10 or more. Admission is free. For information call the gallery at 5340419.

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