

## Grove Gallery's show "Neon II" to include performance art at UCSD November 15

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### GROVE GALLERY'S SHOW "NEON II" TO INCLUDE PERFORMANCE ART

A neon art performance with an ecological story line will open "Neon II," the second of this season's exhibitions at the University of California, San Diego's Grove Gallery.

The performance work, titled "Fish Story--A Short Neon- Performance Parable," is a collaboration with neon artist Karl Hauser, writer Stuart Cudlitz and the band, D'Cuckoo, all of San Francisco. A cast of 16 people will perform the work at the exhibition's opening reception, which will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, at the Grove Gallery. The exhibition will continue through Dec. 20.

"Neon II," will feature small-scale and a few larger-scale works including an outdoor, neon "billboard" titled "Aphrodisiacal Self Portrait," by Freddy Elliott of Salina, Kansas.

The participating artists, besides Hauser and Elliott, are Ron Carlson (director of the UCSD Crafts Center) of Cardiff-by-the-Sea, California, Peter David of Seattle, Tessie Dong of Los Angeles, Michael Flechtner (the show's curator) of Los Angeles, Maurice Gray of Moreno Valley, Kim Koga of Claremont, Ben Livingston of Austin, Texas, Reiko Motogami of Nara, Japan, Sherry Nickell of Topeka, Kansas, Kunio Ohashi of Los Angeles and David Svenson of Claremont.

"Fish Story--A Short Neon-Performance Parable" will be staged on risers with most of the cast wearing hard hats, each with a neon fish on top. Each person will hold a turquoise- colored neon "wave." The neon is powered by battery pack. "There is a good guy and a bad guy, but the audience must draw its own conclusions about the parable," Hauser said.

Curator Flechtner, speaking about the pieces in the exhibition, began with his own "Quantum Leap." The work is a small-scale animated piece, with cows jumping over a "man in the moon." Positioned in front of the moon is a spinning pyramid with lighted constellations on each of its sides.

"The work was inspired by the idea of the willing suspension of disbelief," Flechtner said.

Gray's work is described as "visceral." He creates boxes containing fetishes, that look like mummified objects, tightly bundled, using bits of cloth, bone and fur, and accented with neon. Gray's work calls to mind a sarcophagus or coffin, Flechtner said.

For the "Neon II" show, Motogami uses small wooden boxes as the focal point of her work, containing neon figures. She will exhibit two works: "Music Box" and "Bump." "Music Box" is made of marble and wood, and contains a tube of pulsing neon light. The second work uses neon that looks like white lightning shooting through a rainbow, according to Flechtner. He explained that much of Motogami's work addresses the concepts of social and physical containment versus nature.

Nickell's works are cast in paper, forged metal and carved wood. She makes small pieces that Flechtner describes as organic furniture, integrating into them subtly lighted neon glass.

Svenson, who showed his figurative neon "wobblies" in the Grove Gallery's 1989 neon show will exhibit them again, this time incorporated into a larger wood carving with a totemic theme. Three dancing wobblies are positioned on top of a blue, carved head. Also integrated into the head are bromo-blue, crackle-tube eyes and a small mold-blown, uranium-green glass frog in its mouth.

Koga also will show mold blown glass integrated with concrete and ceramic, to form food images.

The Grove Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information on parking may be obtained from the Gilman Drive or Northview Drive information pavilions. There is a parking fee.

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