

Terry Allen's "Trees", part of Stuart Sculpture Collection to be inaugurated

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TERRY ALLEN'S AUDIBLE "TREES" TO BE INAUGURATED AT UCSD

Lead-shingled eucalyptus trees, two of which emit sounds of music and poetry, are the fourth and latest addition to the Stuart Collection, an outdoor sculpture project at the University of California, San Diego campus.

Created by California artist Terry Allen, the three once-living trees were given a new bark of shingled lead sheeting, and relocated to a grove of trees near the UCSD Central University Library.

Allen will give the inaugural introduction to the installation at 4 p.m., April 4, in the Mandeville Center Recital Hall.

At the introduction, Allen will talk about the concept of the installation, called "Trees," and about his ideas on music, language and performance. He will play excerpts from the tapes, and talk about them and the artists, musicians and writers who have contributed works for the trees.

Allen's talk will be followed by a reception from 5-7 p.m. at the site of the installation in the grove of eucalyptus trees southwest of the UCSD Central University Library.

The "Tree" outside the Central University Library is silent. The two "Trees" in the grove are wired for sound. They will play selections of music and poetry, including the voice of artist William T. Wiley singing, "Ghost Riders in the Sky," Navajo chants and music of a Thai band, with which Allen toured in Southeast Asia.

Allen's lead-skinned trees are his first permanent outdoor sculpture. The trees were previously located in a grove of eucalyptus trees where the Charles Lee Powell Structures and Materials Testing Laboratory now stands. Allen removed them from the site after they were felled. They then were treated, cured and covered with the lead shingles, according to Mary Livingstone Beebe, director of the Stuart Collection.

New tapes for the "Trees" will be developed in the future, Beebe said. "Allen will be inviting more artists to submit music, poems and stories," she added.

Allen was born in Wichita, Kansas, raised in Lubbock, Texas, and for the past 12 years has lived and worked in Fresno. His career has incorporated visual arts, performance (he records and plays with his own band, the "Pan Handle Mystery Band"), literature, sculpture and collaborations with other artists.

In 1981, Allen created an installation and related theatre piece, "Anterabbit/bleeder (a biography)." In 1982, he created "Billingsgate (A Motel)," at the invitation of the Yellowstone Art Center to celebrate the centennial of Billings, Montana. Another work, "Ornithopera (The Devil's Condo)," was first exhibited at the Fort Worth Art Museum in 1981.

Allen has exhibited at such major institutions as the Whitney Museum, the UCSD Mandeville Gallery, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Pasadena Art Museum, the Contemporary Art Museum in Chicago and

Houston, Caltech's Baxter Art Gallery, the Portland Center for the Visual Arts, the Nelson Gallery/Atkins Museum in Kansas City, and the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art.

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