

UCSD's Grove Gallery kicks off its 1992-93 season on September 22 with an exhibition of American folk and outsider art, called "Personal Visions"

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UCSD'S GROVE GALLERY KICKS OFF ITS SEASON ON SEPTEMBER 22 WITH AN EXHIBITION OF AMERICAN FOLK AND OUTSIDER ART, CALLED "PERSONAL VISIONS"

Highly personal creations often referred to as "folk" or "outsider" art, will be exhibited at the Grove Gallery, University of California, San Diego, in the first of the gallery's 1992-93 season, titled "Personal Visions," from Sept.22-Oct. 24.

A public reception will take place at the gallery from 6:30-8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10.

"Outsider" is a term scholars have applied to work created by people who have not studied at traditional art schools. The genre reflects a highly personal vision of an eccentric or religious nature. Outsider artists produce work representing all of the traditional art forms, including painting, sculpture, assemblage and environmental work. Outstanding examples are Simon Rodia's "Watts Tower," in Los Angeles, and Howard Finster's "Paradise Garden," in Georgia.

"Personal Visions" will feature the work of approximately 15 artists, including Howard Finster, Mose Toliver, Mamie Deschillie and Patrick Davis, all of whom have received national recognition and have been documented in the "Museum of American Folk Art Encyclopedia of 20th Century Folk Art and Artists," by Chuck and Jan Rosenak. Other artists who will exhibit work in "Personal Visions" include San Diegans Pete Taylor and Robert DeAndrea.

Finster achieved "star" status in the art world with the creation of "Paradise Garden." The two-acre plot of resurrected Georgia swamp is ornamented with paths and walls of concrete that are embedded with cast-off items.

Finster, a retired Baptist minister, paints complex pictures he calls "sermon art." These works contain Biblical messages and complex imagery that come, he says, from God. His works have been widely collected and shown. He has exhibited at such institutions as the Museum of American Folk Art, New York City; the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art.

Deschillie, a Native-American who lives in Farmington, New Mexico, creates "cut-out" figures of people and animals constructed out of paper and cardboard. She then dresses and decorates them in a highly personal fashion, using scraps of brightly colored material. Her work has been shown at the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff.

DeAndrea's installation, titled "Hulaland," is a smaller version of the environmental work that dominates his home. Within "Hulaland" is a section titled "The Promised Land," which features Annette Funicello memorabilia with a beach blanket theme. Part of DeAndrea's installation also includes a complex miniature theme park titled "Flamingoland."

Taylor's van, referred to as an "art car," is covered with stuck-on "rescued" objects. A familiar La Jolla mobile landmark, the van will be situated outside the Grove Gallery for the duration of the exhibit.

Works by artists in the show, other than Taylor and DeAndrea, are on loan from the Outside-in Gallery in Los Angeles, courtesy of owner Liz Blackman.

The Grove Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parking permits and directions to the gallery may be obtained at the Gilman Drive and Northview Drive information pavilions. For additional information, call 534-2021.

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