

"Cultural Death Within a Political Milieu," art performance

February 14, 1985

A performance art presentation in which the artists portray "cultural death within a political milieu" will take place at 8 p.m. March 1-2, in the University of California, San Diego Mandeville Center Recital Hall.

Called "Necropolis/Text," the work is based on psychological and physical death and inspired by a Mexican grave site and ancient Greek burial procedures.

Performed and written by graduate designer Joel Reynolds and theatre artist Maurya Wickstrom, the work is described by them as "a text for grieving, about its stages and its inevitable urge toward health."

The artists' intention was to "create a metaphorical and poetic space which is part ceremonial, part utterly practical...where bit by bit, cultural, political, and personal health might be restored."

Two characters, painted white, arrive at a grave site and proceed to transform the site in the Greek manner, which was to reject death and affirm life. The playwrights' message is that life is filled with events which are not actually death, but "deaths in life," and so the work becomes a suggestion for how humanity might create an identity which is very alive because "it is rooted in active opposition to amnesia, fear and oppression."

Joel Reynolds is a theatre designer who has collaborated with theatre designer Robert Israel and performance artist Diamanda Galas. He will complete his MFA in design from UCSD in March.

Maurya Wickstrom is a theatre artist who has studied directing at Tulane University in New Orleans. She currently lives in Los Angeles.

(February 14, 1985) For more information contact: Alixandra Williams, 452-3120