

Video presenting colorful overview of UCSD's Stuart Collection of Sculpture to air June 13

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VIDEO PRESENTING COLORFUL OVERVIEW OF UCSD'S STUART COLLECTION OF SCULPTURE TO AIR JUNE 13

Talking trees, flashing neon vices and virtues, a 12-foot-high shoe, even an echo of Stonehenge -- the diversified sculptures in the internationally recognized Stuart Collection of outdoor sculpture at the University of California, San Diego.

Scholars and Sculpture, a new video on the Stuart Collection, premieres at 8 and 10 p.m. June 13 on UCSD-TV, Southwestern Cable, Coronado Cable, and Cox Communications. The video documents a collection which invites discussion, debate, and delight, and encourages creative thinking on campus.

Scholars and Sculpture takes the viewer on a tour of the sculpture sites, enhanced along the way by the commentary of Stuart Collection director Mary Beebe, Stuart Foundation president James Stuart DeSilva, as well as university officials, students, staff, and campus visitors. Included in the presentation is installation footage of several pieces and corresponding interviews with artists. Overviews of the UCSD campus and slice-of-life footage of various campus activities place the sculptures in context.

The Stuart Collection began, Beebe tells us, as "a dream in the eye" of arts patron DeSilva, also a strong supporter of UCSD. DeSilva saw the 1,200-acre university filled with possibilities for site-specific sculpture -- sculpture created solely for a particular area on campus.

Today, the Stuart Collection of 13 sculptures exists because of an innovative partnership between UCSD and the Stuart Foundation. As participating artist Robert Irwin says, it is "the most unique collection of sculpture in the world."

Beebe cites the goals of the ever-growing collection: to make visual experiences for people memorable and provocative; to make people think in new ways, perhaps even to initiate controversy. She adds that commissioned artists are given opportunities "to stretch and do things they might not otherwise do."

Muir College Provost Pat Ledden recalls the campus community reaction to the first sculpture, the 26-foot high brightly colored Sun God by Niki de Saint Phalle. People didn't seem to know what to make of it, he reminisces. They wondered what was it doing here? As time went on, he adds, it has become a "playful and energetic part of the campus," fitting into the fabric and life of the university just as has each of the other pieces in their own unique way.

In addition to Sun God, the Stuart Collection consists of Trees by Terry Allen, an untitled fountain by Michael Asher, Terrace by Jackie Ferrara, UNDA by Ian Hamilton Finlay, La Jolla Project by Richard Fleischner, Green

Table by Jenny Holzer, Two Running Violet V Forms by Robert Irwin, Vices and Virtues by Bruce Nauman, Something Pacific by Nam June Paik, Snake Path by Alexis Smith, La Jolla Vista View by William Wegman, and Red Shoe by Elizabeth Murray. Future plans include works by Kiki Smith, John Baldessari, and Ed Ruscha.

The Stuart Collection has received financial support from the Stuart Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Russell Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the California Arts Council, the Colleagues of Stuart Collection and other organizations and individuals.

Scholars and Sculpture was produced by the Stuart Foundation, written and directed by Julia Kindy and David Hunter, with support from the UCSD Office of Learning Resources, the UCSD Media Center, and UCSD-TV.

The video, which will be shown at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. June 13, runs approximately one half hour. It may be seen on the UCSD-TV UHF Channel 35, on Southwestern Cable Channels 15 or 18, on Coronado Cable Channel 16, and on Cox Communications Channels 76 in South County and 58 in North County.

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