

"L.A. Women/Narrations" to be first presentation of school year in Mandeville Art Gallery

September 29, 1978

"L.A. Women/Narrations," an exhibition encompassing paintings, mixed-media constructions, works on paper, videotapes and performances by women, will be on display Oct. 6 through 29 as the first presentation of the school year in the Mandeville Art Gallery at the University of California, San Diego.

The show will open with a public reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6.

The exhibition will explore the narrative content in collage, painting, sculpture, drawing and the elucidation of real-life experiences which artists currently express in adoption of a persona through "performance." The artists who will participate are Jerri Allyn and Performance Group, Karen Carson, Carole Caroompas, Victoria Nodiff, Sylvia Salazar Simpson, Kathy Kauffman and Rita Yokoi.

During the opening night reception, Simpson will present her performance of "A Food Piece," the premiere presentation of this work. Several "Tutti Frutti" and "Saran Rap" mixed-media constructions by the artist will be on display during the run of the show.

Simpson says she "grew up in a country where food and lack of food was very much in evidence." In Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she was born, "there were feasts of food for the living and feasts of food for the dead. And, there were beggars who begged for food and there were always the smells of food -- of food cooking, of food ripening. of food decaying."

Caroompas, whose works have been shown throughout California and at galleries in New York City and Cleveland, will present a narrative work, "In Search of the Perfect Love," (#1 through #10) an example of serial imagery.

Kauffman's "Showgirls' Show" is a delineation of what the artist calls "how women digest the more extreme manifestations of this society's definition of femininity." To produce the documentary videotape, Kauffman interviewed three Las Vegas Strip showgirls and encouraged them to show their own art works "done in complete privacy." The works, says Kauffman, "had to be coaxed out of drawers and closets." The women discuss their "middle-aged" transformations -- their shifts in self-image -- induced by aging, divorce and changing professions during an era of great upheaval for females.

Nodiff will show her water-colors and gouaches, among them "My House," "Self Portrait for August" and "Russian Flu."

Carson will display several examples of her "How to Draw" series in which she utilizes the technique of word and image conjunctions.

The small environment, "In Anticipation of a message of Love" by Yokoi, contains a conelike disc with a parrot resting on a branch appearing at one side. The objects, all colored hot pink, are designed to be illuminated by pink light. Yokoi says the work has a relationship to universal love as well as to romantic love. The artist's "Insatiability" and "Table," two- and three- dimensional constructions, will also be shown.

"The Waitresses," a performance piece by Allyn, Leslie Belt, Chutney Lu Gunderson, Patti Nicklaus, Jamie Wildperson and Denise Yarfitz, will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27. The group of six feminist artists has utilized a collective 14-1/2 years of waitressing to create this portrait of "abusive treatment on the job" and more generally, "the fate of many women caught within the rigid confines of female role-playing."

Mandeville Art Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Sunday through Friday and 7 to 10 p.m., Wednesdays. The gallery is located in room 101 of the Mandeville Center for the Arts on the Muir campus of UC San Diego. There is no admission charge for the exhibition, the reception or the two performances. For additional information, telephone 452-2864.

For information contact: Public Information Office, 452-3120 or Gerry McAllister, 452-2864

(September 29, 1978)