

## **Video Installations, dusted: works by Peter Sarkisian opens Sept. 25 in the University Art Gallery**

**September 3, 1998**

Media Contact: Kathleen Stoughton at University Art Gallery (619) 534-0419 or [kstoughton@ucsd.edu](mailto:kstoughton@ucsd.edu), or Kate Callen at (619) 534-0361 or [kcallen@ucsd.edu](mailto:kcallen@ucsd.edu)

VIDEO INSTALLATIONS, DUSTED: WORKS BY PETER SARKISIAN OPENS SEPT. 25 IN THE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Dusted featuring works by Peter Sarkisian, will be on view Sept. 26 through Dec. 12 in the University Art Gallery at the University of California, San Diego. A reception for the artist, open to the public, will be held 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, September 25.

Artist Peter Sarkisian creates powerful and evocative installations through the use of video technology as a medium. Each of the four pieces in this exhibition consists of two-dimensional video images projected onto three-dimensional surfaces. The focal point of the exhibition, *Dusted*, is a seemingly transparent cube inside of which two individuals struggle for space both physically and metaphorically. The piece reflects on abstract human endeavors to gain clarity and intimacy, and to confront one's own limitations, evolution and decay. The exhibition also features two pieces from *The Roadside Series* and *Rare Drop: Green and Blue Postponed Dreams*. *Rare Drop* questions hopes and aspirations by creating an environment that explores the act of sleeping and the tangible presence of dreams. *The Roadside Series* consists of pieces that examine the meanings of home and travel, and reflect on the nature of vicarious or secondary experiences.

Sarkisian feels it is important that viewers of video art become more than standard observers. He uses time and movement as qualities of video art that draw the viewer. He says, "I'm working with projection as a means of altering our perception of physical reality and our sense of place within it." His kinetic installations compel the viewer to have an experience triggered by the pieces as they change.

Although he manipulates the capabilities of video art to maximize the effectiveness of his pieces, his intelligent and ironic installations transcend the medium of video technology.

Sarkisian explains, "It is as much about the object and changes in spatial representation as it is about video technology. The technology just expresses the idea."

Sarkisian explores the tension for viewers of video art who are unsure if they relate to the installations as observers or participants. He seeks to free the video image from the referential boundaries of a physical frame. He says, "When you see an image within a frame, it is window-like, secondhand. By eliminating the frame, the image becomes its own reason for being. It crosses over and shares space and time with the present. It is no longer referential source imagery." His sculptural installations involve the viewer in an immediate and participatory dialogue with the piece.

Both a video artist and filmmaker, Sarkisian was born in Glendale, CA in 1965, and moved to Cerrillos, New Mexico at age four. He was educated at the California Institute of the Arts and currently resides in Santa Fe. In 1988-89, Sarkisian was the youngest ever directing fellow at the American Film Institute. His video installations

have been nationally acclaimed, and his 15 films have won wide acclaim, including prizes at the New Orleans International Film Festival and the Chicago Film Festival.

In 1994, Sarkisian participated in the groundbreaking contemporary exhibition titled "Triskaidecaphobia" in Santa Fe. Since then, his work has been featured in one-person exhibitions at Linda Durham Contemporary Art in Santa Fe, Modernism Gallery in San Francisco, 1-20 Gallery in New York, and Solway Gallery in Cincinnati. He has exhibited at SITE Santa Fe in conjunction with video artists Bruce Nauman, Gary Hill, Bill Viola, Diana Thater and Tony Oursler. His group shows include 1996: Synesthesia at Linda Durham Contemporary Art, Pleasures of the Palette, a benefit for the CASA in Tucson, AZ, and Jesus Morales' Cerrillos Cultural Center Exhibition in New Mexico.

The artist will attend the Sept. 25 reception at the gallery. This event is free and open to the public. The gallery is located at the west end of Mandeville Center on the UCSD campus in La Jolla. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Kathleen Stoughton is the director of the University Art Gallery. For information, call the gallery at (619) 534-2107.

(September 3, 1998)