

Red Shoe added to Stuart Collection at UCSD; reception to be held for artist Elizabeth Murray, February 25

February 9, 1996

Media Contact: Mary Beebe, The Stuart Collection, 534-2117, or Jan Jennings, 534-8687

RED SHOE ADDED TO STUART COLLECTION AT UCSD

Picture a 12-foot high shoe. Bright red. Up on its toe as if running -- no, bounding playfully through a eucalyptus grove.

A celebration of motion, mischief, and monumentality, the Red Shoe is the work of nationally acclaimed American artist Elizabeth Murray. It is the latest addition to the Stuart Collection of outdoor sculpture at the University of California, San Diego.

A program crowning its completion will be held Feb. 25. Murray will give a slide presentation at 3 p.m. in Room 1402, Galbraith Hall. A reception will follow at 4 p.m. at the sculpture site in the eucalyptus grove between North Torrey Pines Road and the Mandell Weiss Theatre. The events are free and open to the public.

"The shoe is a witty combination of classic and eccentric," says Stuart Collection Director Mary Beebe. "It is not unlike something Mickey or Minnie Mouse might wear. Elizabeth's art derives from cartoons, storybooks, objects from daily life, a twist on pop art. She's been called the 'living master of the curved shape.' The shoe is arched, round, bulging, lumpy, lurching, furrowed, and gouged."

Designed and painted by the artist, the Red Shoe was constructed of cedar by Murray's assistants, Warren Kloner and Roger Loft. Several sizes of colored "rocks" (also of cedar and painted by the artist), possible seating places, are scattered in the woods near the shoe, creating what Beebe describes as "a kind of resting spot in motion."

"Elizabeth Murray's art has always been in motion and about motion," says art critic and teacher Roberta Smith. "We are pulled in by the sense of objects and space on the move, of color and painted and literal shapes subject to various internal and external pressures."

Known primarily as a painter, Murray was invited by the Stuart Collection to further push the edges of her cartoon/pop, motion-oriented paintings into her first three dimensional work. She has been working on the Red Shoe for more than a year. It is the 13th addition to the Stuart Collection.

Born in Chicago, Murray received her bachelor's of fine arts degree from the Art Institute of Chicago and master's of fine arts from Mills College. She has taught or lectured at Bard College -in New York, the California Institute of the Arts at Valencia, Princeton University, Yale University, the School of Visual Arts in New York, as well as at the Art Institute of Chicago. She has exhibited in one-person and group shows nationally and internationally.

A major retrospective of Murray's work traveled throughout the United States ending at the Whitney Museum in New York in June, 1988. A catalog, "Elizabeth Murray: Paintings and Drawings," published by Abrams in New

York, stated: "Elizabeth Murray's inventively shaped canvases, rich surfaces and colors, and vital, distinctive forms make her one of the most challenging artists working today."

The artist lives in New York with her husband, poet Robert Holman, and two daughters.

(February 9, 1996)