

## **UCSD graduate art students' outreach project with San Diego elementary school students culminates in exhibition at San Diego Museum of Art from January 22-February 21**

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### UCSD GRADUATE ART STUDENTS' OUTREACH PROJECT WITH SAN DIEGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CULMINATES IN MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Students and teachers from three San Diego elementary schools learned what experimental art is all about when they collaborated with a group of nine graduate students from the University of California, San Diego to make art videos, an art museum audio tour, installations, photographic pieces and performance art works.

The creations from the project, which took place during the 1991-92 academic year, will be exhibited at the San Diego Museum of Art, from Jan. 22-Feb. 21, 1993, funded by Mrs. Helen Bing of Los Angeles.

The nine artists formed the group, Collaborative Experiments in Arts (CEA), as a way of bringing experimental art to the schools. The project is a pilot program that has, for the first time, created a relationship between the San Diego Public Schools System, UCSD, and the San Diego Museum of Art.

The concept for the program was provided by the San Diego- based organization Social Movements in Art (S.M.ART), a pro-active community group made up of artists and professionals. The group also served as liaison for the participants.

According to the project's advisor, Allan Kaprow, who is an internationally known artist and a professor of visual arts at UCSD, "The project was designed to introduce the public schools to an art program of an experimental nature, which would reflect the concerns of the professional art world in a way that the kids would find enjoyable."

The children who took part in the project were from Carver, Harbor Summit and Torrey Pines elementary schools. Among the projects done at Carver were several performance works, including "Laundry" and "Circle Songs," and an art museum audio tour narrated by second grade students that will be available for use at the San Diego Museum of Art during the exhibition.

At Torrey Pines, children took part in an interactive video performance piece called "Equilibrium Pool Party" that explored the experience of swimming. A second project, "Sixty-six Inches," placed a horizontal pole at the height of the tallest student, intersecting the room between the teacher's desk and the students' seating area, allowing only the students to pass underneath without stooping.

The Harbor Summit Elementary School teaches children who are without homes, or who are living at the St. Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army shelters. These children took part in projects that incorporated their contributions in a lasting way: a quilt, called "Small Hands," and a book, titled "April's Wishes and Writings."

The CEA artists are: Tom Brumley (Carver); C'Love, MFA/UCSD (Harbor Summit); Brian Dick (Torrey Pines/La Jolla YMCA pool); Nina Katchadourian (Carver); Steven Matheson (Torrey Pines/La Jolla YMCA pool); Shay Poskey (Torrey Pines); Val Valgardson (Torrey Pines); Dietmar Walther (Torrey Pines) and Olav Westphalen (Carver).

Time and materials for the project were volunteered by the UCSD artists and the public school teachers and principals. All fundraising for the exhibition was done independently by CEA.

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