

Artist Ross Bleckner to lecture Nov. 2 at UCSD

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RECEPTION, EXHIBIT OPENING FOLLOW IN UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

American painter Ross Bleckner will present a slide lecture on his work at 6 p.m. Nov. 2 in the Faculty Club of the University of California, San Diego in conjunction with an exhibition of his paintings which opens to the public that day at the University Art Gallery.

A reception for the artist follows at 7 p.m. in the University Art Gallery. The events are free and open to the public.

The Bleckner exhibition, which will continue through Dec. 8, consists of approximately 40 paintings, including large canvases, watercolors, small studies, and excerpts from notebooks, all of which were created between 1985 and 1995.

Born in New York in 1949, Bleckner studied at New York University, attended the California Institute of the Arts in 1972, then returned to New York where he has lived ever since. Bleckner emerged as a central figure in American painting in the 1980s with thought-provoking works which explore the life process. He was among the first to embrace paintings dealing with the tragedy of AIDS. His paintings are characterized by dark surfaces of reflective oil paint and varnish; a fixation with light; an underlying geometric system, and an oscillation between flatness and depth.

Bleckner has exhibited internationally, including galleries in New York, London, Cologne, Madrid, and Paris. His works have been featured in several Whitney biennials, the Carnegie International, and are in museum and private collections. This spring, the Guggenheim Museum in New York organized a major mid-career Bleckner retrospective exhibition which is currently touring Europe.

"Ross Bleckner 1985-1995" is organized by Kathleen Stoughton, Director of the UCSD University Art Gallery. Works for the exhibition are on loan from the Eli Broad Family Foundation, the Emily Fisher Landau Foundation, Matthew and Iris Strauss, and the artist.

Established in 1974, the University Art Gallery presents six exhibitions a year, with an emphasis on contemporary art from around the world. Following recent renovation, the new entrance to the gallery is on the west side of Mandeville Center, more visible and accessible to gallery visitors. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

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