

"California Video", art exhibit

October 21, 1980

An exhibit of work by some of the West Coast's finest young video artists will be shown at the Mandeville Art Gallery at the University of California, San Diego Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 27 and 28, from 3 to 6 p.m.

The exhibit, "California Video," was curated by Kathy Huffman for the Paris Biennale. Artweek critic Ruth E. Iskin said the show has "a freshness, an unpredictability and plenty of young blood." Several artists whose work will be shown are graduate students in the UC San Diego Department of Visual Arts, including Jan Peacock, Helen de Michiel and Dan Boord.

The pieces in the exhibit are a far cry from the video art of the 1960s, which was largely created in a spirit of protest against the commercial medium of television. As the art form has matured, artists have become comfortable with it as an alternative to commercial television, and have begun to create tapes which are accessible and often entertaining.

"Many of the tapes in the show have the quality of bizarre documents of our culture, probing our underlying attitudes to people, government, animals, consumerism, television, modern romance, modern communication and the environment," wrote Iskin in her review. "Like good storytelling, they have a message, but their didacticism tends to be entertaining rather than cumbersome."

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