

## **Artist Robert Irwin to lecture on the outdoor installation he is creating for the UCSD Sculpture Garden**

**October 14, 1982**

Artist Robert Irwin will discuss the outdoor installation he is creating for the University of California, San Diego campus in a free public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 29, in UCSD's Mandeville Center Recital Hall.

Irwin's piece will be the third acquisition of the Stuart Collection at UCSD. Approved by the UC Board of Regents in September 1980, the Collection is a joint effort between the university and the Stuart Foundation. Its purpose is to commission major outdoor contemporary sculptures by internationally known artists for the UCSD campus.

Irwin's untitled installation will be built in the eucalyptus grove between Mandeville Center and the Student Health Center. It is scheduled to be completed in mid-November. The work consists of two V-shaped configurations of 30-foot-high stainless steel poles. Each structure is connected at the top by purple rubber-coated cyclone fencing. Purple flowers later will be planted in a random pattern at the base of the piece. No trees or branches will be cut in the construction process.

Robert Irwin is generally considered to be one of the most influential California artists. He was born in 1928 in Long Beach, California. His real education, he insists, began in 1957, when he moved from figurative portraiture to abstract expressionism. After several successive stylistic changes, Irwin entered what critic Calvin Tomkins called "a new aesthetic territory altogether, one where philosophical concepts of perception and the world interact."

Irwin is the topic of a new biography by Lawrence Weschler, "Seeing is Forgetting the Name of the Thing One Sees" (University of California Press, 1982). The author concludes that Irwin "...is perception's gadfly, annoyingly prodding the taken-for-granted, relentlessly combing the ordinary and uncovering its hidden wonders... In short, he is an artist who one day got hooked on his own curiosity and decided to live it."

Mary Beebe, director of the Stuart Collection, described the possible effects of the new installation on the campus community: "Irwin asks us to examine the nature of our perception. He accentuates light and space to make one more aware of existing qualities. Students and faculty walking around, under and through Irwin's work will notice that their experience of it changes with the time of day, the weather, the seasons and the moment."

The topic of art in public places has become one of the most debated issues in the art world. People argue about the meaning of the words "public" and "art" when they are juxtaposed, and whether a given piece succeeds in its chosen location.

Beebe views the campus as a very appropriate place for such discussion and expects the Stuart Collection to stimulate dialogue on the nature of art.

The first acquisitions of the Stuart Collection at UCSD were installed on campus last spring. "Love Man" by Mark Di Suvero and "They Couldn't Put Humpty Dumpty Back Together Again" by H. C. Westermann are on exhibit in the foyer of the Central University Library.

The Foundation plans to place three to four major projects per year on the UCSD campus. Niki de Saint Phalle's "Sun God," a monumental bird-like form, is scheduled for installation on the campus by the beginning of 1983.

Other artists working on proposals for possible commissions are Jim Turrell, Richard Fleischner, John Tinguely, Claes Oldenburg, Richard Serra, Terry Allen and Walter De Maria, among others.

No reservations or tickets are required for Robert Irwin's October 29 lecture at UCSD. For more information, phone the Stuart Collection offices at (714) 452-2117.

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