

UCSD's Grove Gallery to show "Polymer--The New Clay," a juried exhibition of works made from a new art medium

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A few years ago, a new arts medium hit the crafts scene--a polymer clay that was fired in home ovens--to become the stuff of which beads, dolls, wall hangings, book covers, lamps, buttons, vases, boxes, and even furniture, were made. Colorful, easy to use, and artfully rewarding, polyvinyl chloride medium became the stuff that generated work groups, classes and yes, even World Wide Web news groups and home pages.

This fast-growing art form--think Playdoh with a college education--will have a place to shine, in a juried exhibition, from Feb. 12-23, at the Grove Gallery, at the University of California, San Diego. Some of the works to be exhibited include jewelry--bracelets, necklaces and earrings; barrettes; candle holders; sculpture and writing pens.

Among the artists showing in "Polymer--The New Clay," are Liz Tamayo of San Francisco; Dottie McMillan of Los Angeles; Marie Segal of Escondido; Joann Hunot and Jane Mahneke of Santa Barbara; Z Kripke and Tashina of San Diego; Marcea Donovan of La Jolla, and Debbie and Marah Anderson of San Jose.

The show's curator, Syndee Holt, of Imperial Beach, says the art form has generated enough interest to form 19 local guilds in less than a decade, a national guild with approximately 900 members, including international participants, and a national newsletter titled, The PolyInformer. Polymer 'Net pals pass along design tips, e-chat about polymer problems, have bead exchanges, and celebrate members' birthdays with what Holt says are "the best" examples of what members make. In fact, the participants of polymer have gathered enough of an informal "membership" to create a whole new exhibition category.

The Grove Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parking permits are required and may be obtained at the information booths at the Northview Drive and Gilman Drive entrances to the campus. For information call 534-2021.

Internet addresses for polymer pursuits are: <http://www.primenet.com/athayer.html>; <http://www.hic.net/polyhome.html> and, <http://www.hic.net.sec8.html>.

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