



SD Art Prize Mission: Fusing Energy for San Diego Visual Arts: Mentorship, Education, Recognition, Collaboration

ART NOTES

The San Diego Art Prize is a cash grant which recognizes excellence in the visual arts. The prize is dedicated to the idea that the visual arts are a necessary and rewarding ingredient of any world-class city and a building block of the lifestyle of its residents. Conceived to promote and encourage dialogue, reflection and social interaction about San Diego's artistic and cultural life.

Notes by Rob Sidner, director [Mingei International Museum](#) on Arline Fisch

Arline Fisch – An Appreciation

Kudos in abundance to ARLINE FISCH, recipient of the 2012 San Diego Art Prize! She is an internationally renowned **creator** of distinctive jewelry with a consistent hallmark of unsurpassed craftsmanship. An **innovator**, she broke new ground decades ago using textile techniques, particularly knitting and crochet, to fashion adornment covering large areas of the body and in recent years to make colorful sculptural forms. A **worker**, she thinks constantly, it seems, about her work, experimenting and keeping, also, at the intense and patient physical effort of making art. A **lover of color**, she is an artwork herself, showing inimitable and elegant style on every outing. An admired **teacher**, she is immensely curious herself and always on a quest to learn. A respected **colleague**, she has been active throughout her long career regionally, nationally and internationally with artist craftsman organizations, supporting her peers and encouraging the latest generation.

It is a delight to know and collaborate with Arline, and it has been an honor for Mingei International Museum to exhibit her work a number of times over a 19-year period, most notably with a striking installation of her wire mesh jellyfish sculptures in 2009-10.



www.SDVisualArts.net 760.943.0148 info@SDVisualArts.net
2487 Montgomery Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007



Notes by Susan Street: [Susan Street Fine Art Gallery](#) on Vincent Robles

Vincent Robles is a custom craftsman as well as a conceptual artist. He is currently studying to receive his MFA with an emphasis in Furniture Design from San Diego State University, where he is using the association of furniture to recontextualize our past notions of how we view furniture. Vincent's distinctive pieces are created to engage the viewer's intellect and create a catalyst for conversation. The nooks and crannies of his home inspire the starting points for many of his constructions.

Seeking inspiration in the simple forms of everyday household objects Vincent takes the mundane and transforms it into sculpture. Breaking down preconceived notions of these recognized forms; his mute household objects are made to spill their secrets as they evolve. Striving to keep his materials honest he will not only construct a custom piece from scratch but he will also take a rickety old ladder, operate on it, and make it conceptually witty, and give the viewer a surprise and often an out of context point of view! I find his work to be both technically impressive and conceptually intriguing.

Notes by Catherine Gleason, Associate Director, SDSU Downtown Gallery on Vincent Robles

The work of Vincent Robles combines minimalist tendencies with a capricious sensibility. His objects are derived from the tradition of furniture making—each is inspired by furniture design. However, in Robles' hands the distinction between furniture and sculpture dissolves as deconstructed ladders morph into quizzical, functionless objects, and the ends of a smooth, round banister unite to form a meditative circular orb. Furthermore, the use of recycled ladders as signifiers of furniture indicates the degree to which Robles is willing to bend the classifications of art and design.



www.SDVisualArts.net 760.943.0148 info@SDVisualArts.net
2487 Montgomery Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007



The whimsical nature of Robles' sculpted forms is tempered by a sense of history that permeates the reclaimed, gray wood of which the sculptures are made. The color of the wood is somewhat unexpected and thoroughly intriguing. Through the use of reclaimed wood, Robles infuses his sculpture with elements of the past, yet the objects themselves are unique, new, and wholly connected to the present.

Notes by Scott White, director [Scott White Contemporary Art](#) on Jeffery Laudenslager

While Jeffery Laudenslager's influences and understanding of kinetics are clear, his innovation and creative vision are evident throughout his body of work. The calculated misses of each moving limb create feelings of tension and anxiety, while the plunging follow-through acts as a calm release. His ability to manipulate and animate metals, both static and kinetic, demonstrates Jeffery's mastery of geometry and physics. His decision to use lightweight steel and titanium allows each structure to move in the most organic way possible.

As a clear protégé of the late George Rickey, Laudenslager emulates his mastery of motion; however, his incorporation of reaching and swooping appendages animate the work in a compelling way. He even manages to bring life to his static works without betraying his minimal approach to sculpture. In my recent visits to New York, I noticed several artworks along Park Avenue containing evidence of not only Rickey's influence, but also the influence of Jeffery Laudenslager. Having known and watched Jeffery for the last thirty years, I am pleased to say that his innovation and dedication continue to impress me. He deserves the recognition he will receive from this award and I look forward to seeing new work in the future.



www.SDVisualArts.net 760.943.0148 info@SDVisualArts.net
2487 Montgomery Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007



Notes by Debra Poteet, collector [SD Art Prize](#) committee on Deanne Sabeck

How do you capture the capricious beauty of that chimera the aurora borealis, shimmering and dancing across the night sky to its own celestial rhythm? Or bottle a rainbow and then pour its glimmering hues onto a canvas? Deanna Sabeck, like the alchemist of old, has found a way to make the lyrical mysteries of reflected light in the heavens yield to her skilled hand. Her canvas is any surface and her paint is light reflected off of precisely hewn and treated glass, carefully aligned with sources of light. Sabeck's pieces both delight and amaze the viewer at once and just like the Northern Lights, when the lights go off, now you see it, now you don't! The constant state of awe and surprise that Deanna's pieces elicit, as a collector, keep me coming back for more and is the reason I nominated her.

Notes by Betsy Lane, [Betsy Lane Art](#), on Deanne Sabeck

Deanne Sabeck continues breaking, bending, slumping, fusing, reflecting, stretching and casting her glass net across wider and wider territories. There are no limits for this prolific woman who engages in the pursuit of dreams. For more than thirty years, I have watched this sexy, juicy, lover of man and beast, exert her feminine energy and creativity. Hotels, homes, universities, galleries, libraries and airports contain the creative manifestations that she is unable to contain. She is the light reflected in the physical world and like that world she continuously evolves and changes. Never afraid to experiment with something new is the underpinning drive that propels Sabeck forward

Congruent, uninhibited, loving, engaging and intimate are words that describe both the woman and her work. As a mother of two daughters, this Encinitas resident has embraced all her loves...yoga, animals, music, art and travel to journey along life's highway. Her most recent endeavor is as owner/director of Casa Candelitas, a spectacular, serene art/yoga retreat close to Samara Beach in Costa Rica.



www.SDVisualArts.net 760.943.0148 info@SDVisualArts.net
2487 Montgomery Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007