



February 22, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Art of the Reclaimed and the Recycled

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA: 75 unique, earth-friendly, uplifting, humorous, serious, thoughtful, poignant and world-class sculptural works will be on display at the 8th Annual Art Eco show at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, March 16 – May 24, 2012, all made from reclaimed, recycled or natural materials. Opening reception will be held on Friday, March 16 from 5 PM – 7 PM at a cost of \$10, which counts towards an art purchase. All pieces are original, are for sale, and proceeds benefit the Garden.

The eighth annual Art Eco: Connections with Nature, features an expanded list of fine Central Coast artists. Many of these have integrated natural and reclaimed materials to express how human imagination and the natural landscape of the region reflect each other says Show Curator, Sara Egerer.

This year's Call For Artists was answered with a number of artists not previously seen in this show. Artists for 2012 include: Rod Baker, Elizabeth Bear, Jayne Behman, Renee Bewley, Jack Biesek, Ursula Black, Bette Byers, Emily Emanuel, Peg Grady, Matt Hedlund, George Jercich, Anne Gill Kellogg, April Kluver, Peggy Koteen, Rich Lasiewski, Larry Le Brane, Maria Loe, Mike T. McNutt, Richard Mortensen, Pandora Nash-Karner, Carol Paulsen, Stephen Plowman, Ron Roundy, Lena Rushing, Mary Ann Statler, Rick Vagnini, Charles Varni and Mary Velasquez.

Here is your chance to view a melding of landscape-inspired artistic creations in the place that best fits their conception, and to speak with the artists.

Mike Bush, Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden which hosts the event, says having art that blends with the garden gives the public a chance to experience something rare. “As a serene Garden that combines beauty and education, our extension to art is a short step. I am thrilled to have such great works – that are easy on our Earth – for viewing within our Garden as well as inside the Oak Glen Pavilion.”

Highly diverse outdoor installations are a feature of the show. Prices range from under \$100 to \$10,000.

Jack Biesek, who has one large and six smaller pieces entered, says, “It is a pleasure to participate in the Art Eco Show again (my third year). It seems like the setting enhances the art and sculpture as much as the art enhances the setting.” His works enhance any garden by reflecting organic forms.

Another approach to a sculpture comes from Artist Larry Le Brane. He says the name of his work, *Sentry 21/Big Brother*, refers “to our current timeframe and the aspect of being ‘watched,’ the function of a sentry.” He repurposed materials found in Los Osos, or given to him years ago and held waiting for inspiration to strike.

Ali Semon and Sara Egerer estimate 75 per cent of the artists who will show this year have been involved in the display sometime in the past eight years and, “some of them have shown every year,” which, they say, gives them the benefit of experience from a knowledge of the garden setting that will go well in any outdoor display along the Central Coast. “We’re presenting ‘site designed’ art specifically created for the venue of our area.”

In addition to the outdoor displays Art Eco will present works for the home or office. One of the pieces, *Qualify* by Elizabeth Bear, a geometric whirl, uses forest bracken to lend color and distinction to a traditional basket that reflects Native American influences to our coast. Another, Charles Varni’s *Iron Planter*, ripples with organic designs.

Art Eco opening reception is scheduled for Friday, March 16 from 5 PM to 7 PM and will allow the public to meet the artists. Admission to the reception is \$10 which can be applied to art purchased from this show. The art will be on display in the SLO Botanical Garden through May 24. Call 805.541.1400 for more information.

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is located on 150 acres in El Chorro Regional Park off Highway One between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo, at 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. When the master plan is complete, the Garden will be the only garden of its kind in the world exclusively devoted to the ecosystems and plants of the five mediterranean climate regions of the world. Through its programs and facilities, the Garden fosters an appreciation and understanding of the relationship between people and nature and encourages a sense of stewardship toward the natural environment.

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For more information:

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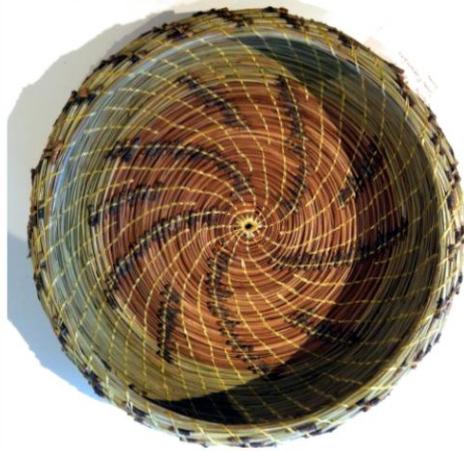
Sara Egerer, Frame Works Gallery Director, or Ali Semon, Show Sponsor and Frame Works
Owner, Mon.-Fri., 10 - 6 and Sat., 10 to 4 (Other hours by appointment) 805.542.9000
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Sentry 21 Larry Brane



Iron Planter Charles Varni



Qualify Elizabeth Bear