

Public invited to art reception at Coastal Communities Cancer Center's Project Healing Space on July 27



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The City of Ventura's Public Art Program invites community members to a free art reception on Wednesday, July 27, from 5:30 to 7 pm, at the Coastal Communities Cancer Center, 2900 Loma Vista Road in Ventura, to celebrate three Project Healing Space mixed media public art installations. Free parking is available in the center's lot and on streets nearby. The installations will remain in place for at least three months.

Dominga Opazo's Healing Symbols, Carol Colin's Aquaria and James Dinh's Mountains of Hope and Change are the latest examples of immersive art sponsored by the City of Ventura Public Art Program through its periodic P.L.A.C.E. (Public & Local Artists Creating Environments) projects. Since 2003, P.L.A.C.E. commissions for temporary public art projects have enhanced public spaces, stimulated cultural vitality and encouraged area artists to engage in dialogue with city residents about the role of art in their community.

The primary goal of the Coastal Communities Cancer Center's Project Healing Space is to display artworks that inspire passersby, residents and visiting patients alike with the inspirational qualities of art. Its gallery spaces are lighted glass windows on the facility's three exterior walls that face outwards to the street for walk-by viewing.

Los Angeles painter Carol Colin's Aquaria consist of four fabric installations depicting people, hushed and spellbound, before an indoor glass aquarium wall containing giant kelp and various California coastal fish. "It's as though they are waiting for something wonderful and it has arrived," says the artist. "A study released last summer showed that visiting an aquarium can reduce stress and lower heart rates and blood pressure ... [and] provides respite and solace for the hurried and harried. Thus the aquarium can be a healing space."

Chilean artist and recent graduate from University of California Berkeley Dominga Opazo's Healing Symbols are textile creations inspired by the organic forms, patterns and colors of the natural world as seen through the lens of her childhood and the complex woven art by the indigenous peoples of her country's Chiloe Island and the patterns made by the Selk'nam peoples of Patagonia – intensive work that connects her to her heritage and becomes for her a "meditative practice" she hopes "will bring healing energy to those who view these artworks."

Vietnamese-born and SoCal environmental artist James Dinh's Mountains of Hope and Change "is intended to remind people that they belong to a rich, life-affirming natural world that is constantly changing. Inspired by the mountain ranges that form the backbone of California, the piece is comprised of 12 panels that together form a long continuous landscape....Four shades of colors...change across the panels like the seasons, and even seemingly immutable mountains change over time."

For more information contact: City of Ventura Public Art Project Manager Tobie Roach at 805/658-4759 or troach@cityofventura.net; or Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships Manager Denise Sindelar at 805/658-4793 or ordsindelar@cityofventura.net.

This release is available on the City of Ventura website at www.cityofventura.net. ###