



MEDIA CONTACT: Diane Evans
707-579-1500 x 11
devans@sonomacountymuseum.org

SCM Opens Three New Exhibitions

Chuck Close: A Couple Ways of Doing Something
Edwin Deakin: California Painter of the Picturesque
Mario Uribe: Zen Circle Revisited

Santa Rosa, CA – June 4, 2009... The Sonoma County Museum announces the opening of three new exhibitions during the months of June and July. These exhibitions represent the museum's commitment to bring diverse and dynamic collections of art and history to our community.

Chuck Close: A Couple Ways of Doing Something opens to a members-only preview on Friday June 19, with the public opening on Saturday June 20. The exhibition runs through Sunday, August 2. *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something* evolved from the extraordinary daguerreotype portraits created by Chuck Close. Throughout a career of more than four decades, Chuck Close has consistently sought to test the limits of the media in which he has chosen to work, from painting and Polaroid photography to holograms and Japanese woodblock prints. "I have always been fascinated by how one way of doing something can kick open a door to another way," he has remarked. "For me, the original image serves as a matrix, from which I can explore issues of scale, information, and perception."

It represents an additional departure for Close because many of the daguerreotypes were produced in tandem with praise poems written by Bob Holman, founder of the Bowery Poetry Club. Together, they form composite portraits of their subjects and are the inspiration for the title of the exhibition and related publications. This project was made possible through the generous support of Lannan Foundation and Carey C. Shuart. Support for the exhibit at the SCM comes from Steve and Mary Graves, Craig and Edith Roland, the Gallo Family Wineries, Ann Sebastian and Lagunitas Brewery.

Edwin Deakin: California Painter of the Picturesque opens to the public on July 3 and runs through September 20. The paintings of Edwin Deakin (1838–1923) represent an aesthetic evolution in California art, a shift from the sublime to the picturesque. Before Deakin, most Northern California landscapists followed the example of Thomas Hill and Albert Bierstadt and aimed to glorify their place in America by depicting a paradise (Yosemite, the Sierra) of grandeur and drama. Deakin moved away from a boldly panoramic depiction of nature to a more intimate view, in human scale. A contemporary writer observed that Deakin had "the power to make his revelations . . . appreciable to all, the spectator feels them; he is impressed with a reality in the painting which appeals to

NEWS RELEASE

the soul rather than to the judgment or the eye itself.” This exhibition was developed by the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento and is supported in part by a grant from the Anorcase Foundation.

Mario Uribe: Zen Circle Revisited opens to the public on Friday June 5 and runs through August 2. This exhibition features more than a dozen new and past works by Santa Rosa based artist Mario Uribe. The exhibition carries forward Uribe’s powerful motif of the circle as a symbol of harmony that can be created in one brush stroke. All of the work is inspired by Zen Buddhist principles and the Japanese arts, particularly calligraphy. The works in the exhibition include several mixed media pieces, including one entitled, “Friendship” completed in 2007. Another series of paintings on long scroll-like paper features dozens of circles arranged in grid patterns, each piece reflecting one of the seasons. Uribe will also feature a series of circles on translucent fabric that will hang in the middle of the gallery space. This exhibition is sponsored in part by Circle Bank.

Programs at the SCM in June and July include:

June 19, Members Only Opening of Chuck Close: A Couple of Ways of Doing Something 5-7pm

June 27 Free Family Day 1-4pm

July 3 Public Opening Edwin Deakin: California Painter of the Picturesque 5-7pm

July 7 Free Public Day 11-5pm

July 9 Lecture: SF Chronicle Critic Kenneth Baker speaks about Chuck Close 7pm*

July 23 Gallery Talk with Mario Uribe 6:30pm*

July 25 Zen Brush Workshop 10am-12:00pm*

July 30 Lecture: Scott Shields, Crocker Art Museum Associate Director speaks about Edwin Deakin 6:30pm*

August 4 Free Public Day 11am-5pm

*Reservations required. Call or email Laurie Cox at 579-1500 x 17 or lcox@sonomacountymuseum.org.

End