

North County Times  
Fallbrook, Bonsall  
June 1, 1997

## **InSITE97 announces gala and art auction**

SAN DIEGO — “InSITE97: The Party Continues ...” is the name of InSITE97’s gala evening of music, dance, live performance and superb cuisine beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at 345 B St. in downtown San Diego. The black-tie soiree will benefit InSITE97, a binational, collaborative artistic venture of 26 nonprofit and public arts institutions in San Diego and Tijuana. Tickets are \$185, and reservations are available from the InSITE97 office, (619) 544-1482.

# Herbal paradise

## North County artists join inSITE97

**BILL FARK**  
STAFF WRITER

Public art goes big time and big scale in inSITE97, 40-plus installations spread out around San Diego and Tijuana. And North County is part of the action: Deborah Small, Bill Bradbury, Dana Case and Patricia Mendenhall collaborated on the multimedia piece "Rowing in Eden."

The four Cal State San Marcos teachers have grown a window garden in San Diego's Santa Fe Depot. The other major display in the public art exhibition is dried sprays of more than 500 wildflowers hanging from the ceiling. A pantry full of canned fruits and vegetables completes the natural setting.

Small, who conceived the idea and wrote the master script, said, "We concentrated on plants because 80 percent of the world's population believes in herbal remedies."

"Our display is actually focused more narrowly. We explore the historical relationship of women and plants, on the herbalists, healers, diviners and wise women who became known as 'witches.' Not so much on the persecution of witches and midwives, but on the powers attributed to them as well as their own sense of power."

The plants, fruits and garden are not the complete project. The entire process, from conception to completion, has been taped to show as an interactive computer-generated piece incorporating still images, text, music and video.

Small indicated a corner of the room screened in black drapes. "Bill Bradbury composed the music. Dana Case narrates the text that I wrote and compiled. In (the poem) 'Mother of All Living Things,' she speaks as Eve in the Garden of Eden and as Rebecca Lemp, a Swabian woman accused of witchcraft and burned to death in 1590."

Small also wrote the poem she attributes to Katherine Kepler, accused and acquitted of witchcraft in 1615. Other sources are formulas for ointments that supposedly enabled witches to fly by French physician Jean de Nynauld, Bavarian J. Hartliepp and the Swiss alchemist, Paracelsus.

Small said, "Rowing in Eden" (the title comes from a poem by Emily Dickinson) also shows how the natural and the technical interact. "Several medications in use today are from plants that have been used for centuries. And scientists are scouring jungles around the world in hopes of finding others."

"Atropine that's used in treating diseases of the eye comes from belladonna that was the main ingredient in flying ointments. Foxglove, laurel, fennel, goldenrod, even stinging nettles also have medicinal qualities."

Small talked as she worked: tying clusters of leaves and flower sprays for hanging; nailing a rattlesnake skin to a

post; rearranging pieces that were already hung for better color and textural effects.

"We are almost overwhelmed with materials. I live in Rainbow, where there's a good supply of plants. And since people heard about the project, they've been bringing us more. We have to choose before we cut and hang."

A crew of three — Terrilynn, an Escondido artist; Carole Kuck; and Rebecca Sininou — helped Small with the installation. "We'll have a different crew every day," she said. "Some are students from my 'Process of Art' class, who are interested in the project as a hands-on experiment, and others are simply interested in what we are doing here."

"We are also involved in the 'Drawing Down the Moon' ceremony at Oceanside Harbor Beach," she said. "That's close to Halloween, a more appropriate time for dealing with witches' activities."

Until then, visitors to "Rowing in Eden" can enjoy rose hips, cattails, mugwort, eucalyptus, cactus, bougainvillea and assorted herbs and plants as natural art.

### ■ "ROWING IN EDEN"/inSITE97

**When:** Today through Nov. 30

**Where:** Santa Fe Depot, corner of Kettner and Broadway, San Diego

**Tickets:** Most are free

**Information:** (619) 544-1482

### InSITE97 locations

InSITE97 involves 50 artists in 40 projects around San Diego and Tijuana, today through Nov. 30. Site-specific installations range from a two-headed horse and a Volkswagen masquerading as a slice of toast to Deborah Small's growing garden/CD-ROM show and a Detroit-inspired altar.

The 42 exhibitions can be seen at 24 locations, as follows. Call (619) 544-1482 for information.

Project locations in San Diego unless otherwise noted:

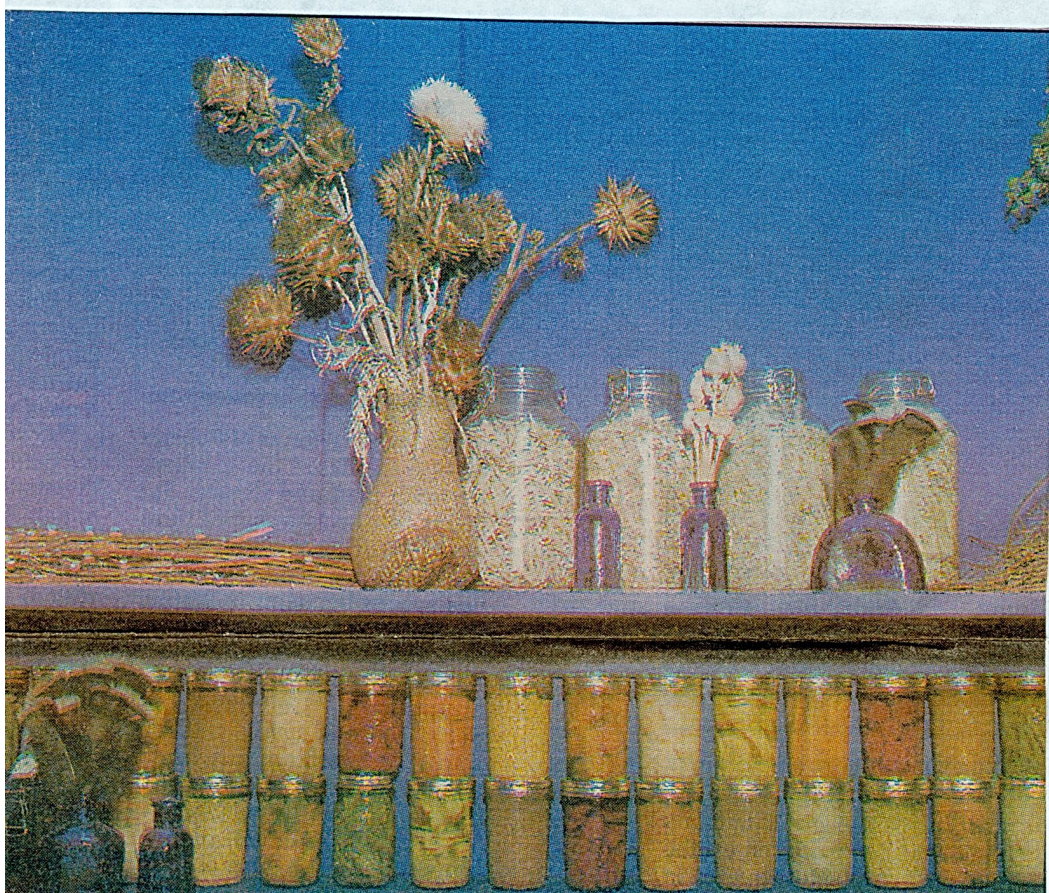
Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave.; Border Field State Park, Monument Road, Imperial Beach; Broadway Pier, Harbor Drive at Broadway; Casino Theatre, 653 Fifth Ave.; Chicano Park, Crosby Street at National Avenue, National City; Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Ave.; Dolores Magdalena Memorial Recreation Center, 2902 Marcy St.; International Information Centers, 170 Sixth Ave.; Master Tattoo Studio, 944 Fifth Ave.; The Paladion, 777 Front St.; 1901 Main St.; Paradise Creek, W. 18th St. at Wilson Ave., National City; 958 Fifth Ave.; The ReinCarnation Project, 1081 J St.; San Ysidro Greyhound Depot, 799 E. San Ysidro Blvd.; Santa Fe Depot, Baggage Entrance, 1090 Kettner Blvd.

Project locations in Tijuana:

Casa de la Cultura de Tijuana, Paris and Lisboa No. 5, Colonia Altamira; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Heroes and Mina, Zona Rio; Colonia Altamira, Rio de Janeiro No. 6757, Colonia Altamira; Colonia Libertad, Calle Cuarta and Serapio Rendon; Palenque, Cortijo San Jose, Avenida del Agua at Paseo del Pedregal; Playas de Tijuana, Paseo Costera at border fence; Puerta de Entrada San Ysidro, immediately south on Mexican side of border crossing; Seccion Monumental, Paseo Costero near Plaza Monumental.



JAMIE SCOTT LYTLE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Above, artist Terrilynn, left, helps 'Rowing in Eden' artist Deborah Small hang holly on the wall. Left is an assortment of food and herbs in bottles that adorn the exhibit.