



Children in Tijuana are creating a series of murals based on recollections of recent immigrants. The Mural Project, which involves many children who are blind or orphaned, will be on display in a park near Playas de Tijuana this summer. It is one of 15 community engagement programs sponsored by inSITE97.

inSITE97 Art Exhibition To Feature More Than 40 Artists In San Diego And Tijuana

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inSITE97, a large-scale public space art exhibition featuring more than 40 artists, will open on Sept. 26.

The event has taken three years to plan and is a collaborative effort of 26 non-profit and public art organizations from San Diego and Tijuana.

inSITE97 includes both an extensive art exhibition and many ongoing community education programs.

The nine-week-long exhibition includes 42 projects and will take place in 30 locations throughout San Diego and Tijuana, with most projects taking place between downtown San Diego and metropolitan Tijuana.

"Projects are situated to engage the public in unexpected ways and in unexpected places," said Michael Krichman, executive director of inSITE97.

Project sites will include both indoor and outdoor spaces such as the Santa Fe Depot, the former Carnation Milk Plant in downtown San Diego, the basement of the Children's Museum of San Diego, various storefronts in San Diego, residential areas of Tijuana, the beach at the Mexico/United States border, and many public plazas and parks.

Other projects will be scattered throughout the area inviting visitors to participate in a scavenger hunt. Transportation will be provided in Tijuana by shuttles.

inSITE97 will feature artists from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Argentina, Cuba and many other countries in the Americas. Their work explores the historical, cultural and social aspects of the region.

Many artists are creating mobile works of art. Filmmaker Ruben Ortiz Torres will show his work, "Alien Toy, UCO (Unidentified Cruising Object)," a custom low-rider truck with a hydraulic bed that functions as a video projector. Canadian artist Kim Adams will create her "Toaster Work Wagon," a large mobile toaster sculpture and studio that will travel through various cities giving people the opportunity to build sculptures out of tricycles.

inSITE97 will also include "Toy and Horse," a 16-foot-tall double-headed wooden horse that will be constructed by Marcos Ramirez Erre, Josue

Castro, Javier Galaviz, Julio Orozco and Alejandro Zacarias. The immense sculpture will be located at the San Ysidro border crossing. "Toy and Horse" is designed to provoke questions about invasion, tourist trade and the effects of intercultural relations.

The exhibit also features a virtual and actual golf course created by Thomas Glassford. The 18-hole golf course will be located throughout San Diego and Tijuana. Some holes can be played while others can only be viewed by a peep hole, security monitor or other device. A player's guide to the course will be provided by Glassford.

The community education portion of inSITE97 began last October and includes 15 programs that involve more than 8,000 students and residents from the region.

"The 15 community engagement programs give people of all ages the opportunity to engage fully in the artistic process, delving into nature and function of public space in the transitional context of the binational region," said Carmen Cuenca, executive director for inSITE97. The programs will continue to run through this December.

inSITE97 is coordinated by Installation, a non-profit organization based in San Diego and the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico. The event is organized in association with the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego, the state of Baja California and the city of Tijuana.

Major support for inSITE97 is provided by Aeromexico, the California Arts Council, the city of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, the National Endowment for the Arts and more.

Jessica Bradley, curator of contemporary art for the Art Gallery of Ontario, Oliver Debrose, director of Curare in Mexico City, Ivo Mesquita, an independent critic and curator from Brazil, and Sally Yard, a chair of the department of fine arts at the University of San Diego, served as the curators for this event.

inSITE97 is scheduled to run through Nov. 30. All art exhibitions are open to the public and free of admission. A bilingual handbook will serve as a map to sites and guide to the inspiration and thoughts behind each artist's work. Internet users can go to the inSITE97 Web site at <http://www.insite97.org> for more information.

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