Installation Is In Spotlight At Several Venues

ArtWalk Organizer Focuses On S.D./TJ Collaboration; Beginning Of Biennial Event

By PRISCILLA LISTER San Diego Daily Transcript City Editor Installation, the non-profit art gallery perhaps best known for organizing the annual ArtWalk festival in the Gaslamp Quarter, is promoting San Diego's arts in a new fashion.

This month and next, it presents In/Site 92, an exhibition of several installations in different venues all over San Diego and Tijuana. Organizers plan this to be the first of a biennial event that will grow in the future.

In/Site 92 is the brainchild of Ernest Silva and Mark Quint, two members of Installation's arts advisory board. Silva is a professor of visual arts at UCSD and Quint is co-owner with Michael Krichman of La Jolla's Quint • Krichman • Projects, the artists' residency program and gallery.

"Basically the idea came from a sense that San Diego has a lot of really excellent artists and there are really terrific shows going on throughout the year," Silva said last week.

"There is good work being done at local museums as well as community colleges, universities and private galleries. But since San Diego doesn't have a single urban neighborhood where all these things take place, the events are geographically separated.

"Installation is kind of unique in the history of supporting San Diego's arts, complementing other institutions in town. This idea really fosters that cooperation.

"Hopefully what will happen is cultural institutions in San Diego and Tijuana will pool their resources to make people aware of what's happening, and we'll guide audiences to circulate among all the shows, to celebrate the richness of San Diego's and Tijuana's artistic institutions."

In/Site 92 consists of installations at 21 venues by 50 artists. The emphasis is also on "installations" as an art form.

The 21 sites are ABC Art & Architecture Books, Palomar College's Boehm Gallery, Tijuana's Casa de la Cultura, Centro Cultural de la Raza, Centro Cultural Tijuana, Gallerie de Arte de la Ciudad, Installation, Java Coffeehouse Gallery, David Lewinson Gallery, Lyceum Theatre Gallery, Mesa College Art Gallery, Linda Moore Fine Arts, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Playas de Tijuana, Quint • Krichman, Rita Dean Gallery, SOMA Gallery, Southwestern College Art Gallery and D.G. Wills Bookstore, Women's

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In/Site 92-

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"Our arts advisory board came up with the idea for an event that essentially unified a lot of different organizations and had the opportunity to focus on the installation art form," said Anna Gonzales, managing director of Installation. "But the real genesis was that it was going to be an event that really created an energy between organizations."

Another intent is to "create a dialogue and begin interacting between this side of the border and the Tijuana side," said Gonzales last week.

One showcase event will be an installation piece at Playas de Tijuana by Ulf Rollof, "Abandonado II." Playas de Tijuana is a wellknown bluff site above the beach about three-quarters of a mile south of the bullring. Rollof's piece goes up by the end of September, and two bus trips are planned Sept. 26 and Oct. 17 to take viewers to the site.

Those trips will also visit the other In/Site venues in Tijuana where San Diego artists will have installations.

"Tijuana is a very important part of the project," said Quint. "We're hoping for ongoing collaborations between venues in San Diego and Tijuana."

Another showcase event will be an installation by Jay Johnson that will be housed in various venues in San Diego, the pieces of which will be for sale with proceeds benefiting Installation. Gonzales said organizers had originally planned this event to be "pretty small, fun and seriously educational about installations. But as time went by, so many people had so much good energy about it, it grew and grew; we were actually surprised about it.

"For the next one in 1994, we've already gotten a lot of commitments. Some people have mentioned that we've essentially planned an event in the last two months that would usually take about a year go plan; it's been a pretty quick deal. But we feel incredible about it, really good about the project.

"And to have a festival that strictly focuses on the art form of installation is incredible. I had probably a dozen artists who wanted to be involved but even they didn't understand 'installation.' I said, 'Come to the event and then we'll talk next time.' "

Silva also sees even better results from a longer lead time for planning. "With two years for planning, we'll gain momentum and get even larger. The kind of things we'd like to see happen then include maybe having buses go continually from all the various institutions, and maybe during a weekend or two we could have docents guiding everyone through the major sites."

Silva still keeps his own career going while he teaches painting, drawing and sculpture at UCSD. He periodically does installation work himself, he said. He's shown in San Diego, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and in Europe.

"I've been really fortunate to have by work seen not only in San Diego but in other places," the professor said. "I've just always felt very supportive of what takes place here."

He and his wife, Cora Boyd, moved here from Rhode Island in 1979. "We anticipated living in New York and just outside it. But it's worked out that we've lived in San Diego; we're a couple hours from L.A. and it's been really good for both of us.

"My wife is an artist as well, really a narrative artist who works with stories and poetry and creates installations with objects, paintings and photographs to tell these stories. We think San Diego's a terrific town; this is really our home now."

Silva's work will be in a group. show — separate from In/Site 92 - at Southwestern College opening later this month with fellow UCSD artists Patricia Patterson and Kim MacConnel as well as Richard Baker and Janet Cooling. Larry Urrutia of Southwestern is curating that show.

As for ArtWalk, the annual arts and crafts festival that has taken over several blocks in the Gaslamp during a weekend in April for the past several years, "we're taking a closer look at it," said Gonzales.

Much of the reason is economic.

Installation last year lost its allocation from city coffers. The city's Commission for Arts and Culture put Installation back on the list this year and awarded \$13,000.

But during '92, ArtWalk had zero funding other than from private donations and volunteers, Gonzales said, and last year the

traffic was down substantially.

"We only had one commissioned artist last year, too, and that was unfortunate," Gonzales noted. "What it's coming down to is the whole world of the arts is substantially changing in terms of funding; projects really have to be more self-supporting.

"So we recognize that we have to take a hard look at the project to see how we're going to do that. ArtWalk this year would have to be supported through private contributions and revenue sales; this year is the first year we've really had to approach it from a hard business point of view.

"That's probably a pretty standard experience at places all over the country. My feeling is the funding is not going to get easier on a governmental level; that's OK. We're learning from it."

Installation's annual budget is about \$50,000, with the remainder of funds coming from private sources and past ArtWalk sales. Randy Robbins is president of its board; other board members are Beverly Schroder, Emily Beebee, Aurora Christophers, Cathe Burnham and Jorge Hinojosa, who's also a member of the Citizens Review Panel that oversees the San Diego Police Department for the City Council.

Other members of Installation's advisory board in addition to Silva and Quint are Gary Ghirardi, Mario Lara and Michael Schnorr. "They've all been terrific with In/ Site 92," said Silva, "and have really been active in setting up opportunities for San Diego artists to show in Tijuana and bringing Tijuana artists here."

A reception to celebrate In/Site 92 will be held Sept. 18, 6 to 9 p.m., at Installation in the Mission Brewery Plaza. Cipriano will present his "Performance Ritual" that night at 9.

Here, then, is the full list of In/ Site 92 venues and artists. Create your own tour of installation work San Diego/Tijuana '92 style.

• ABC Art and Architecture Books, Cora Boyd, "Operettas on the Head of a Pen," Sept. 20-Nov. 6, 835 G St.

• Boehm Gallery at Palomar College, Ming Mur-Ray, "Beyond Numbers," Ben Anderson, "A Balance Is Something," Aug. 28-Sept. 30; Marcia Olson, "3,584 Patterns and Coun-ting," Nanette Yannuzzi Macias, "The Interview, The Journey and Claiming Death," Oct. 9-Nov. 11.

Casa de la Cultura, Jean Lowe/Kim MacConnel, "Tale of the Bull," Sept. 9-30, Ave. Paris y Lisboa, Altamira, Tijuana.

• Centro Cultural de la Raza, Four Regional Latina Artists, "Ambientaciones: 1492-1992," Oct. 10-Nov. 22, Balboa Park.

· Centro Cultural Tijuana, Ellen Phillips/Cheryl Lynn Parry/Larry Dumlao, "Transcending Borders: Human & Environmental Inter-Relations," Sept. 25-Nov. 2, East Paseo de los Heros & Los Mina, Tijuana.

• Galleria de Arte de la Ciudad. Anna O'Cain, "There Was a Snake in the Garden,' Sept. 11-Oct. 6, Second near Constitution, Antigo Palacio de Municipal, Tijuana.

Installation, Cipriano, "Performance Ritual," Carmella Castrejon, "Elementos," Jay Johnson, "Micro Installation," Nina Kat-chadourian, "30 Years 20 Minutes 17 Tapes," Daphne Ruff, "Ruff Wear," Jason Tanne, "Shadow Town," Sept. 4-26; Adolfo Davila, "Los Que Se Van," Judit Hersko, "Surge," Melissa Smedlye, New Work, Olav Westphalen, "A Faithful Reconstruction of the Upstairs Room with All Its Contents," Oct. 9-31, 2150 W. Washington in the Mission Brewery Plaza.

• Java Coffeehouse Gallery, Michael Soriano, "Evolving Installation," Luis Stand, "Historical Ceremonies," Jay Johnson, "Micro Installation," Sept. 20-Nov. 6, 837 G St.

· David Lewinson Gallery, Patricia Patterson/Roy David Rogers, "Two Installations and Other Works," Oct. 24-Nov. 28, 629 J St., second floor.

· Lyceum Theatre Gallery, Ellen Phillips/Cheryl Lynn Parry/Larry Dumlao, "Transcending Borders: Human & Environmental Inter-Relations," Aug. 7-Sept. 9, Horton Plaza.

• Mesa College Art Gallery, James Luna/ Lewis DeSoto, "Kish Tetayawet Dreamhouse Wampkish," Aug. 20-Sept. 16, 7250 Mesa College Dr., A-109.

• Linda Moore Fine Arts, Deborah Small, New Work, Oct. 26-Nov. 22, 1611 W. Lewis St., Mission Hills.

• Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, Noburu Tsubaki through Sept. 26, An-tony Gormley, "Field," Oct. 3-Dec. 9, 700 Pro-

spect St. in La Jolla. • Playas de Tijuana, Ulf Rollof, "Aban-donado II," Oct. 3-31, three-quarters of a mile south of the bullring on right past canyon, Tijuana.

• Quint • Krichman • Projects, David Jurist, "In the Tetidarium," Jay Johnson, "Micro In-stallation," Oct. 3-Nov. 7, 7447 Girard Ave. in La Jolla.

• Rita Dean Gallery, Leslie Samuels, "Silent Death, Invisible Weapons," Aug. 4-Sept. 12, September/October installation, 544 Sixth Ave.

• Soma Gallery, Brent Riggs, "The Spirit of Loveliness in Youth," Sept. 4-26; Amanda Farber, "In Here," Oct. 9-31, 343 Fourth Ave.

• Southwestern College Art Gallery, Liss Platt/Ellen Phillips/Joyce Cutler-Shaw, "3 in 1," Oct. 8-Nov. 6, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista.

Chula Vista. • D.G. Wills Bookstore, Steve Ilott, "Trav-els," Sept. 18-Oct. 10, 7461 Girard in La Jolla. • Women's Caucus for the Arts, Patsy Babcock/Eva Montville and Laura Crouch/ Mary Louise Donovan, "Eve Transplanted; Mind Your Garden," Aug. 28-Sept. 26, India Street Design Canter, 2165 India St. Street Design Center, 2165 India St.

• David Zapf Gallery, Johnny Coleman, "Ruminations," Aug. 28-Sept. 26; Chuck Collings, "Resolve," Oct. 9-31, 2400 Kettner.