

currents

Weekend

FRIDAY
September 2, 2005



THE SAN DIEGO
UNION-TRIBUNE

*

Drive-in movie captures the ebb and flow



For Aernout Mik's video installation "Osmosis and Excess," a Tijuana landscape dense with deteriorating cars fills the screen in a downtown San Diego parking structure. *Alfredo de Stefano*

The immense screen has a panoramic look. The imagery of densely packed used cars stretching across Tijuana hill-sides is shot in high-definition video, giving it an impressive clarity. And the locale of the screen is strangely apropos: the Parkade parking structure on Sixth Avenue, between K and L streets.

The artist is Aernout Mik from Amsterdam, and his project for inSITE05 is called "Osmosis and Excess." His film, which screens continuously, moves back and forth between the auto-littered landscape and a movie set version of a Tijuana pharmacy, its floor oozing with mud. (The pharmacy episodes were shot at Fox Studios Baja.)

The mud is real — and surreal. The pharmacists don't seem to notice as others toil with shovels. And the mud sets up a link about the flow of cars south and the flow of cheap pharmaceutical drugs north. But a viewing works better than any description. Call (619) 230-0005 or visit www.insite05.org.

— ROBERT L. PINCUS



Claudio and Laura Gonzalez with Derrick Cartwright (right) at the preview of Farsites — part of inSITE05 — in the San Diego Museum of Art. *Sandy Huffaker*

Burl Stiff

Museum of Art gains an edge with the addition of inSITE05



Half of Farsites — which is part of inSITE05 — opened Friday at the San Diego Museum of Art.

The other half opened Saturday at the Centro Cultural Tijuana.

The across-the-border, two-museum exhibition of contemporary art brought about some notable changes in the San Diego institution.

Preview guests found galleries to the east of Thornton Rotunda to be much the same: Renoir, Matisse, Georgia O'Keefe and the like. There was even a traveling show of soothing works by Maxfield Parrish.

But galleries to the west were something else again —

aggressively contemporary. A little shocking, maybe, but fascinating.

That's inSITE for you. It has been shaking up the San Diego/Tijuana region since 1992.

Some of those greeted by SDMA director Derrick Cartwright at this year's opening were Lois Roon, Toni and John Bloomberg, Laura and Claudio Gonzalez, Patti and Coop Coopridier, Hugh Davies (he's director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla), Mary Beebe, Diana and Roman de Salvo, Carmen Cuenca and Michael Krichman, Katy and Michael Dessent, Marilyn and Steve Miles, Maurizio Maille, Diana Mogollon Gonzalez, and Iris and Matthew Strauss, widely known as collectors of contemporary art. They said they liked what they saw.

Eloisa and Chris Hauden-

schild were there, (Eloisa is president of the inSITE05 board), and so were Luba Johnston, Emilio Cuenca, Dolores Cuenca, Gerardo Estrada, Yolanda Walther-Meade, Aimee and Roberto Servitje, Anne Vafis, Mariana and Carlos de la Mora, Rita and Luis Cabrera, Rosella Fimbres, Jose Tasende, and Andrea and Dr. Joseph Schmidt.

Various aspects of inSITE05 will continue to intrigue, amuse and dazzle citizens of San Diego and Tijuana through Nov. 13. Included will be project openings, performances and outreach programs. "Working through sustained periods of residency," a release from inSITE headquarters points out, "artists will negotiate the region's complex urban, public, and border contexts, and stimulate new modes of critical engagement."