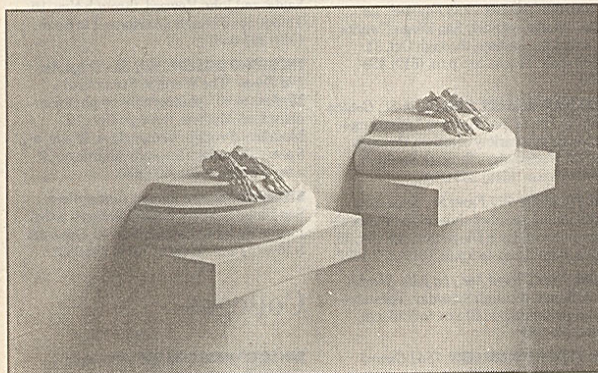
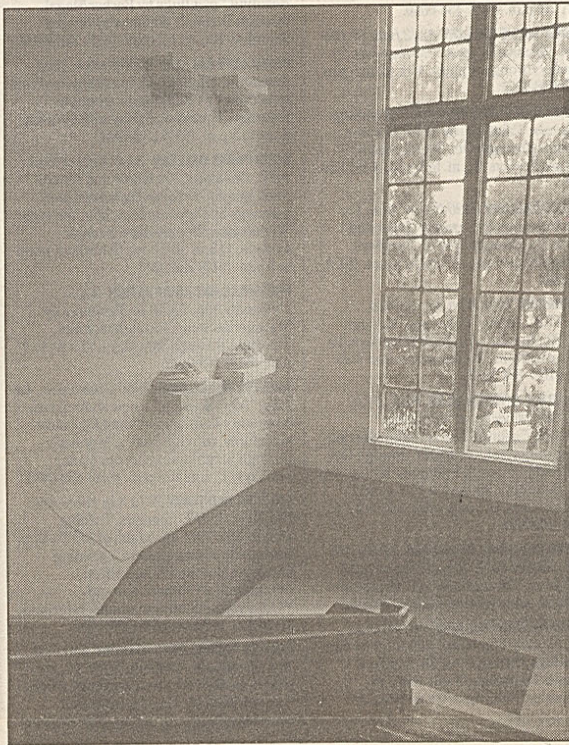


VISUAL  ARTS

# SHEDDING TRADITIONAL IDEAS AND BIASES THROUGH ART



Above, a detail from artist Spring Hurlbut's "Auto Sacrifice," and (at right) the full installation as seen at the Casa de la Cultura in Tijuana.



JOHN GIBBINS / Union-Tribune photos

*A day spent at Tijuana sites opens the viewer's mind, eyes*

By Devorah Knaff

**T**IJUANA — It was easy, in the beginning, to be cynical. By the end, it was not.

By the end of a day of visiting some of the Tijuana sites of the binational arts festival, it was clear that inSITE97 is not your parents' arts festival.

Or rather, parts of it were not, for some elements of the festival were very traditional. The Centro Cultural Tijuana, for example, while housing some very interesting works, is an art museum that any middle-class North American would feel familiar with. Classical music plays softly and reassuringly in the background, the staff is bilingual and the art is identified by neat labels on the walls.

But this is only a starting point

## inSITE97

for the festival, which also includes sites like the Casa de la Cultura de Tijuana and the Colonia Altamira. If art exhibited at traditional museums can be considered one end of the inSITE97 spectrum, then sites like the Colonia Altamira are at the other, with the Casa de la Cultura lying in the middle.

The binational arts festival inSITE97, involving about 50 artists, is designed to bring together artists and audiences from both sides of the border. The project is a collaborative effort of 26 nonprofit arts institutions in the border area, spearheaded by Installation, a nonprofit visual arts organization in San Die-

go, and the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico.

A number of provocative artists have their work exhibited at the Casa de la Cultura, but it remains less the art than the site that is most arresting.

The Casa de la Cultura is very much what its name suggests that it should be: a house of culture, a place where members of the com-

munity can come to study art and music, to perform dance for their friends and families, to learn about the wealth of Mexican history.

All of these things were going on during a recent weekend. It was impossible to look at the art without stepping around dancers dressed in Aztec finery, as if the building had become inhabited by the ghosts of a Mexican past that lies — as do the phantoms of all great civilizations — only just a little bit under the surface of the modern city.

Canadian artist Spring Hurlbut's work — which occupies the stairwells at both ends of the brick, hill-hugging Casa de la Cultura — fits in smoothly with this milieu, for it, too, is an obvious amalgam of the myths of the West and those of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

"Serpent Column" consists of a classical Doric column whose scalloped surface is ridged with snakes that seemed to have paused for a moment on whatever diabolical errand it is that their day takes them. "Auto Sacrifice" at the opposite end of the building, contains feet and capitals of a pair of columns. Resting on the plaster feet are what appear to be the skeletons of two real

## ART REVIEW

### inSITE97

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; Works at the Casa de la Cultura de Tijuana (located at Lisboa No. 5, at the intersection of Calle de Paris); and Patricia Patterson's "La Casita en la Colonia Altamira, Calle Rio de Janeiro No. 6757 Tijuana." Free; (619) 544-1482.

human feet, and wrapped around the capital are human-looking vertebrae.

While pieces so burdened with symbolism tend to self-destruct, Hurlbut's work — within the context of the Casa de la Cultura — has a quiet if rather ominous dignity about it. The piece, in its fragmentation, becomes not simply a cutesy postmodernist parable, but an actual metonym for the dissolution of all classical worlds into times that seem infinitely less grand.

### House breaker

Patricia Patterson's installation — "La Casita en la Colonia Altamira, Avenida Rio de Janeiro No. 6757, Tijuana," takes visitors far beyond such generally innovative works.

Her "piece" is in fact an actual house a few blocks from the Casa de la Cultura. Using high-gloss paint, she has bathed the insides of the small house in the same intensely bright colors that one so often sees on the outsides of Mexican buildings and that so often look garish and cheap to Americans.

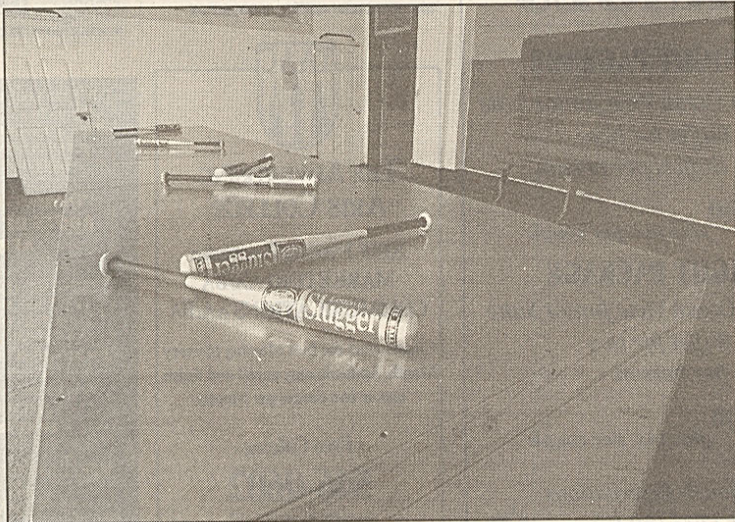
These colors are a come-on to get you into the house. And once you are inside, it is impossible not to talk to people, for the residents of the house come out to greet you, to explain about the project and about the house itself, about the history of their family, about what it's like to have a simple family house turned into an international work of art.

The communication is a little halting, as both sides search for the words they need to cross both some immeasurable cultural differences.

While the pieces in the Casa de la Cultura may require you to surrender some of your traditional ideas about how art should look, Patterson's work requires people to shed some of their biases about how foreigners look and talk and act.

**DEVORAH KNAFF** is an Orange County-based free-lance writer who covers the arts.

José Antonio Hernández-Díez's "Sound Table with Bats," on display at the Casa de la Cultura in Tijuana.



**GALLERY**

Only galleries with rotating exhibitions are listed. Due to space limitations, we are unable to list every show each week.

**Art Museums**

**CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS MUSEUM** 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido. "Table Tops: Morandi's Still Lives to Mapplethorpe's Flower Studies," through Jan. 21, 1998. (760) 738-4138.

**MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF FOLK ART** Central Plaza, Balboa Park. "Stones from Heaven: Ancient Chinese Jade," through December; "Dolls—Mirrors of Humanity," through Aug. 2, 1998. Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (619) 239-0003.

**MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF FOLK ART SATELLITE** University Towne Centre, La Jolla. "Haiti—Caribbean Spirit: Images of Brush and Chisel," through October. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m. (619) 453-5300.

**MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, DOWNTOWN** 1001 Kettner Blvd., downtown. "Geoffrey James: Running Fence," black-and-white photos, through Jan. 14, 1998. Call for hours. (619) 234-1001.

**MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, SAN DIEGO** 700 Prospect St., La Jolla. "Performance Anxiety," through Nov. 30. Call for hours. (619) 454-3541.

**MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS** El Prado, Balboa Park. "Under the Dark Cloth: the View Camera in Contemporary Photography," featuring the work of 15 artists, through Dec. 7. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 239-5262.

**SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART** Balboa Park. "Jewels of the Romanovs: Treasures of the Russian Imperial Court," through Nov. 7. Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. (619) 232-7931.

**Galleries**

**ALCALA GALLERY** 950 Silverado St., La Jolla. "Tropical, Mostly: Recent Paintings and Ceramics," works by John S. O'Brien, tomorrow through Oct. 31. Open daily, noon to 6 p.m. (619) 454-6610.

**THE ART SCENE GALLERY** 2802 Juan St. Old Town. "Illusive Visions," through Oct. 31. Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 688-9324.

**THE ART UNION BUILDING** 2323 Broadway, downtown. Paintings by Velva Pherson Williams, through Oct. 31. Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 239-2312.

**ARTISTS GALLERY** 7420 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Paintings by Suzanne Geller and Vera Felts, through Nov. 1. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 459-5844.

**ATHENAEUM** 1008 Wall St., La Jolla. "inSITE97: Artists' Concepts," through Nov. 29. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays until 8:30 p.m. (619) 454-5872.

**CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL** 2728 Sixth Ave., downtown. "Art in the Cathedral," a juried fine-art exhibition featuring works by local artists, through Oct. 31. Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (619) 291-5947 or (619) 463-0491.

**CENTRO CULTURAL DE LA RAZA** 2004 Park Blvd., Balboa Park. "Pinatas Encantadas Exhibition," through Nov. 11. Thursdays Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. (619) 235-6135.

**COSMOPOLITAN FINE ARTS** 7932 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Landscape paintings by various artists, through Oct. 26. Sundays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (619) 456-9506.

**COTTAGE GALLERY** 2523 San Diego Ave., Old Town. "On the Road Again," multi-media travel impressions by Maurjo Reser, through Nov. 2. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 296-1893.

**DAMSEL GALLERY** 2856 Adams Ave., Normal Heights. "Watercolors Bold and Beautiful," paintings by Barbara Siegal, through October. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 284-2400.

**DAVID ZAPF GALLERY** 2400 Kettner Blvd., downtown. "High Yield," paintings and constructions by Gail Roberts, through Saturday. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. (619) 232-5004.

**DOUG PRATT GALLERY** 2400 Kettner Blvd. #106, downtown. "At Home and Abroad," photographs by Susan Blanchard and paintings by Carol Lindemulder, through Wednesday. Wednesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. (619) 236-0211.

**FOOTHILLS ART ASSOCIATION** 8053 University Ave., La Mesa. Paintings by Marguerite Stone, through October. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (619) 469-0732.

**GALLERY ALEXANDER** 7850 Girard Ave., La Jolla. "All Dolled Up," a new show of contemporary dolls, puppets and figurative sculptures, through Nov. 2. Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 459-9433.

**GALLERY OLD TOWN** 2513 San Diego Ave., Old Town. "LIFE Legends, Turning History into Art," an exhibit of LIFE magazine's early photographers, including Margaret Bourke-White, Alfred Eisenstaedt and others, through Wednesday. Mondays through Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 296-7877.

**GOLDEN PACIFIC ARTS GALLERY** 520 Fifth Ave., downtown. "Bridges: Real to Surreal," mixed-media works by a variety of artists, through Nov. 19. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and

Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. (619) 235-0700.

**IP GALLERY** 641 B St., downtown. An art show by students and instructors from the Windows Art Academy, through next Thursday. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (619) 232-1955.

**K. NATHAN GALLERY** 7723 Fay Ave., La Jolla. "Visions of Early San Diego," works by a variety of artists, through Oct. 31. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 459-3490.

**NEXT DOOR GALLERY** 2963 Beech St., Golden Hill. "El Dia de los Muertos," mixed-media works by a variety of artists, through Nov. 2. Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. (619) 233-6679.

**THE PALADION** 777 Front St., downtown. Fifth annual member show of the Women's Caucus for Art San Diego through Oct. 30. Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 232-1627.

**QUINT** 7661 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Works by Al Souza, through Saturday. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (619) 454-3409.

**R.B. STEVENSON GALLERY** 7661 Girard Ave., La Jolla. "Treading Anxious Waters," new paintings by Patricia Hagen, through Saturday. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (619) 456-0392.

**ROBSON GALLERY** 535 Fourth Ave., downtown. "Far Away Places," plein-air paintings by gallery artists on their recent travels, through Nov. 7. Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (619) 234-7356.

**SAN DIEGO ART INSTITUTE** at the House of Charm, 1439 El Prado, Balboa Park.

"Learn to Hunt, Know How to Kill," paintings by Anna Z. Jenkins, through Sunday. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. (619) 236-0011.

**SAN DIEGUITO OFFTRACK GALLERY** 510 N. Highway 101, Encinitas. "Temptations," watercolors by Diane Smith, through October. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (760) 942-3636.

**SANTA YSABEL GALLERY** 30352 Highway 78, Santa Ysabel. Works by James Hubbell, through Nov. 2. Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (760) 765-1676.

**SHOWCASE GALLERY** 2400 Kettner Blvd., downtown. The San Diego Watercolor Society's 17th Annual International Exhibition, a juried awards show, through Oct. 31. Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (619) 338-0502.

**SIMAYSPACE GALLERY** 835 G St., downtown. "What," works in contemporary furniture design; "Composite Generations," resin-wall sculptures by Eric Johnson, both through Oct. 31. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 544-6444.

**SOUTHWESTERN ARTISTS ASSOCIATION**

through Oct. 31. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (619) 232-3522.

**SPRUCE STREET FORUM** 301 Spruce St., Hillcrest. "Reflections/Refractions," drawings, sculptures and paintings by Sylvia Saldie and John Heward, through Nov. 10. Thursdays through Saturdays, 1 to 6 p.m. (619) 295-0301.

**THE STUDIO GALLERY** 2501 San Diego Ave., Old Town. "The World in Focus: Carl Mydans at 90," photographs by photojournalist Carl Mydans, through Dec. 16. Mondays through Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (619) 294-9880.

**STUDIO 36 Spanish Village, Balboa Park.** San Diego Sculptor Guild's featured artist, Jeanne Richter, through Nov. 10. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (619) 238-0522.

**Colleges**

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE** 7250 Mesa College Drive, Linda Vista. A photographic installation by Jody Zellen, through November. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 7:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (619) 627-2829.

**SDSU Campanile Drive, College Area.** "Reconstructing Ritual," works by Francis Alys and James and Einar de la Toree, through Wednesday in the University Art Gallery. Open noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday. (619) 594-4941.

**UCSD 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla.** "Gary Hill: Tall Ships," an interactive video installation, through Dec. 13 in the University Art Gallery; "Faculty Show '97," through Nov. 1. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (619) 534-2021.

**USD 5998 Alcala Park, Linda Vista.** "Cactus Arcade," an outdoor installation by Roman de Salvo, and documentary photography of labor conditions in Baja by Fred Lonidier, at Founders Gallery and the Founders/Camino courtyard, through Nov. 7. Monday through Friday, 12:20 to 4:30 p.m. (619) 260-2280.

**USIU 10455 Pomerado Road, Scripps Ranch.** "Vanities," still-life photographs by Melinda Holden, through Nov. 8. (619) 635-4563.

For all Night&Day listings, check out SignOn San Diego at [www.uniontrib.com/entertainment](http://www.uniontrib.com/entertainment)

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