

Auction wraps up \$115,000 for inSITE94



The Paladion was as imposing as ever, but one guest was disappointed.

"I thought it would be *wrapped*," he said.

And why not?

Christo — the Bulgarian artist who has found fame and fortune in wrapping such urban landmarks as the Pont Neuf in Paris — was the party's honorary chair.

He and his flame-haired wife, Jeanne-Claude, joined chairwoman Eloisa Haudenschild in welcoming 500 of San Diego's best-known artists, curators, collectors and *cognoscenti* to the Paladion for a benefit dinner and auction staged by the not-for-profit Installation Gallery.

The black-tie party was a benefit for and a harbinger of inSITE94, the biennial exhibition of installation and site-specific art in San Diego and Tijuana. (Site-specific art, as you know, is the kind of thing Christo has made widely accessible with his "Running Fence" and "The Umbrellas.")

The exhibition will open in September and run for five weeks, offering more than 70 works by 100 international artists at sites on both sides of the border.

Joining Christo, Jeanne-Claude and Eloisa at the Paladion benefit were Chris Haudenschild, Eloisa's husband, and Lynda Forsha, director of inSITE94, with her husband, Hugh Davies, director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego.

They were part of a savvy crowd that included Joan and Irwin Jacobs, David Copley, Mary Beebe, Sally and John Thornton, Barbara and Paul Saltman, Faiya and Micky Fredman, Leslie Simon and Michael Krichman (he's president of the Installation Gallery board), Lucille and Ron Neeley, Yolanda Walther-Meade, Jane Rice, Victoria Hamilton, Bob Shapiro, Dona and Dan Whitaker, Karl and Barbara ZoBell, and Elene and Herbert Solomon.

Splashes of colored light, black table linens and a lot of corrugated metal panels mounted on casters helped transform a vacant commercial space into the kind of sultry supper club invented by film noir set designers.

That's where Tony Kopas & Associates served dinner — free-range chicken, pesto pasta, chocolate truffle torte — and that's where keyed-up patrons bid against each other for 15 works of art donated to the inSITE94 auction.

Mary and Jim Berglund were there, and so were Patrick Lee, Mariza Sanchez, Marilies and Hans Schoepflin, Barbara Bloom, Carolyn Yorston and Dr. Louis Gessay, Fatima Cabanas and Walther Boelsterly, Betty and Dr. Don Byrnes, Helen and Jose Tasende, Marc and Patty Brutton, Carmen Cuenca, Rosa and Jorge D'Garay, Celia Rosa, Karen and Dr. Warren Kessler, Sally Yard, Sarah Vazquez, Carole Laventhol, Jim Lennox, and Barbara Metz with Hector Torres.

Others included Miriam Narvaez and Dr. Gerardo Estrada Rodriguez, Andrea and Dr. Joseph Schmidt, Patricia West, Tom Alexander, Ann Beard, Jorge Hinojosa, Kate Adams, Linnea and Frank Arrington, Anna Gonzalez and Mark Quint, Susanna Valji, Lorenza and Jorge Salcedo, Danielle Reo, Maria and Dr. Benito Villanueva, Larry Urrutia, Evonne Schulze, and Margaret and Victor Sell.

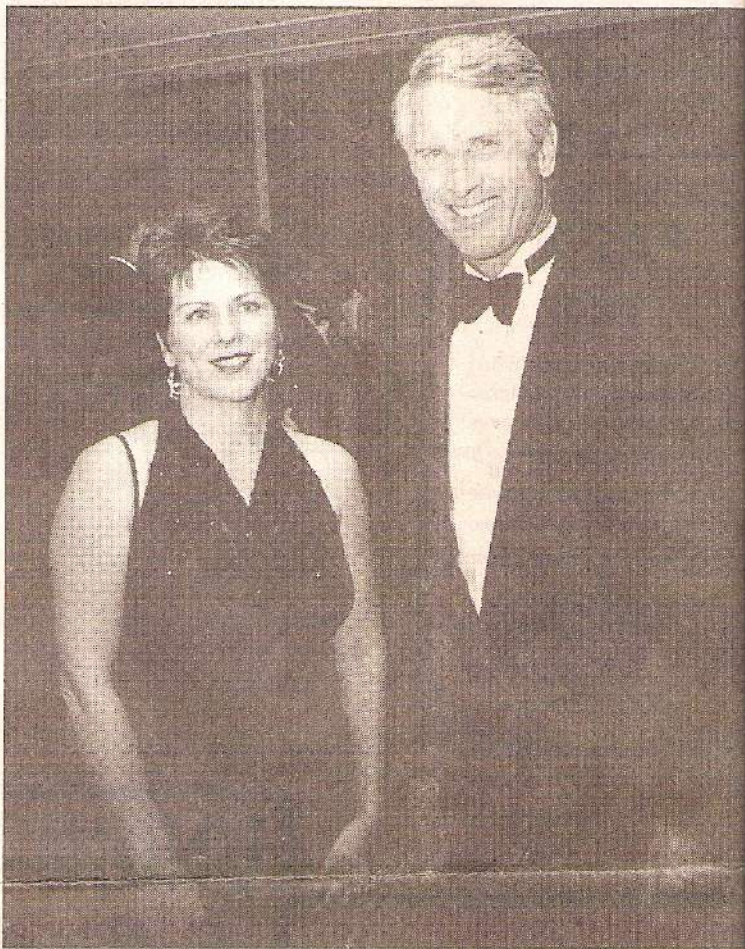
The Haudenschilds, Eloisa and Chris, were among the night's most active bidders. They took home Manny Farber's "Sexy" for \$15,500 and an untitled Antony Gormley charcoal and oil for \$5,000. Leslie Simon and Michael Krichman bought a Robert Morris piece titled "Golden Memories" for \$15,500 and a Mark Lere bronze called "Spoke" for \$5,500.

An Ed Kienholz mixed-media piece sold for \$7,500; a polyester resin by Sol LeWitt went for \$10,000; a neon sculpture by Ian Hamilton Finlay brought \$17,000; Esther and Bud Fischer got Craig Kauffman's "Bubble" for \$8,000 (Bud was the auctioneer); and Dennis Oppenheim's "Saturn Up-Draft" commanded the night's top price: \$25,000.

Christo's "Double Show Window," cataloged at an estimated price of \$10,000, sold for \$20,000.

The 15-item auction netted more than \$115,000 for inSITE94.

When they first planned it, the auction committee hoped it would make \$35,000.



Key players: Lynda Forsha, director of inSITE94, and Chris Haudenschild (above) at the black-tie party. Below, partygoers Herbert and Elene Solomon.

