

Helge Ternsten Exhibits at Sanchez Art Center

Sanchez Art Center is pleased to open three new exhibitions on Friday, March 3, with a reception for the artists from 7 to 9 pm. In the Main Gallery, Helge Ternsten shows his arresting minimalist works in a show titled *It Is What It Isn't*, while in the East Gallery local high school students share an exhibit with Skyline College faculty in *Coastside Invitational*, and in West Gallery the Art Guild of Pacifica offers its group show, *Lost & Found*. Music for the reception will be provided by Julie & Brian Novak-McSweeney of Blue City Jazz.

Helge Ternsten is a self-taught artist who has collected other artists' works for many years. He quotes his close friend, mentor, and supporter, the late Paula Z Kirkeby, who often said, "You scratch a collector, you'll find an artist." Ternsten showed work at Kirkeby's Palo Alto gallery, Smith Andersen Editions, and has also exhibited at George Krevsky Gallery in San Francisco, and at both Sanchez Art Center and Oceana Gallery in Pacifica.

Ternsten's work is fascinating. The show is titled after one of his works, *It Is What It Isn't*. At first glance a piece may look fairly simple, but when you look closer, you realize there are edges under edges, changing what might have been a two-dimensional painting into more of a sculptural piece that still looks like a painting. The artist describes his recent work as "minimalist, three-dimensional, and mostly white," but with "something happening on the edges or inside." Ternsten quotes John Cage, the great minimalist composer, who once described some famous all-white paintings as "airports for lights, shadows and particles," thereby establishing an enduring understanding of the works as receptive surfaces that respond to the environmental conditions of their display. Ternsten's works are indeed ever-changing in response to light and shadow, and what looks simple in actuality has great depth as you look at it from

different vantage points.

The East Gallery is home once again to the *Coastside Invitational*, this time with Skyline Professor of Art and Photography Arthur Takayama curating. Takayama and other Skyline professors decided to invite promising young artists from the Jefferson Union High School District to submit artworks for this exhibit, in order to give the students a chance to show their work and also a chance to connect with the Skyline art faculty. Students will share this exhibit with Skyline College Art Department faculty members. The show will demonstrate the diversity and depth of those who are our local art community, and most importantly, some of those who will be our future artists and contributing members. On Sunday, March 18, there will be a special daytime reception in East Gallery from 2 to 4 pm, to which the public is invited.

Lost & Found is the theme that Art Guild of Pacifica artists will explore in their West Gallery group show. Usually “Lost & Found” is what we call that box in the corner where people have turned in found items. But besides lost property, this theme, of course, also covers concepts such as a lost cause, a lost soul, or a lost look. Moreover, some artists may choose to show work that is about finding something, either something that was previously lost or something that is entirely new.

Sanchez Art Center is located at 1220 Linda Mar Blvd in Pacifica, about a mile east of Highway 1. Following opening night, the galleries are open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1–5 pm, and by appointment, through April 2. For more information call 650.355.1894 or visit SanchezArtCenter.org.