

(1) calendar listing:

Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica— Three new exhibitions will open concurrently at Sanchez Art Center, on Friday, February 21, with a reception free and open to the public to enjoy. Featured in the Main Gallery is William Rhodes, *Throughlines, looking back, reaching forward*. The exhibition is curated by TaVee Lee, courtesy of Transmission Gallery. Of Rhodes' more than 30 year artmaking career, she notes: "In considering the arc of his work over time, one can readily recognize the intertwining ideas evident in his various creative pursuits; the legacies of African culture, the enduring impact of enforced migration through enslavement, the value of generational experience and the importance of creating community in the face of tremendous challenges, all while reaching toward a hopeful future." In the West Gallery, members of the Art Guild of Pacifica will participate in a group show titled *Lost in the Weeds*. The East Gallery is presenting the annual Fog Fest Invitational Photography Exhibition, with works by the award winners and judges of the annual contest held in Pacifica the last full weekend of September. A photographer and judge gallery walk | talk will take place on Sunday, March 9, beginning at 3:00 pm. On the last day of all the exhibitions, Sunday, March 23, the closing program will begin at 3:30 pm with a conversation with Main Gallery artist William Rhodes and curator TaVee Lee. Sanchez Art Center is located at 1220 Linda Mar Blvd, Pacifica, CA. Gallery hours are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1 to 5 pm, and by appointment, during exhibits (except opening nights). For more information: 650-355-1894, www.SanchezArtCenter.org.

(2) press release:

William Rhodes at Sanchez Art Center

Sanchez Art Center will open three new concurrent exhibitions on Friday, Feb 21, with a reception free and open to the public from 7 – 9 pm, including live music by Blue City Jazz. Featured in the Main Gallery is the work of William Rhodes, *Throughlines, looking back, reaching forward*. The East Gallery will present the award winning photographers and judge from the annual Pacific Coast Fog Fest Photography Contest, and in the West Gallery, members of the Art Guild of Pacifica are participating in a group show themed *Lost in the Weeds*.

William Rhodes' career encompasses more than 30 years of art making along with a deep history of community engagement. In considering the arc of his work over time, one can readily recognize the intertwining ideas evident in his various creative pursuits; the legacies of African culture, the enduring impact of enforced migration through enslavement, the value of generational experience and the importance of creating community in the face of tremendous challenges, all while reaching toward a hopeful future. This exhibition showcases these throughlines in work crafted variously from found objects, carved wood, neon, thread, graphite, paint, and fabric, resonating with stories of resilience and connection.

Eleven of the works on view include Rhodes' hand carved elements, typically framing various found pieces, many with drawings, and most combined with neon. Through the repurposing of found objects, we see the reclamation of materials that, once marginalized, are transformed into symbols of strength and continuity. The carved wood, illuminated by neon, bridges the past with the present — where traditional craftsmanship meets contemporary expression, drawing a connection between generations. African references may be found, such as the Chiwara, a mythical animal that brings good luck to crops and the harvest, or an Ibeji, a Yoruban spiritual deity tasked with protecting twins. Repeated motifs of carved pregnant figures signify giving birth to an idea or belief. Houses, flames and thread carry their own weight and meaning.

Flanked by the neon and wood pieces are a selection of Rhodes' recent quilts. At the center of each is a powerful image, a call to solidarity in facing the pain and grief of poverty, desperation and injustice. Two of the quilts were created in collaboration with Emory Douglas, the former Black Panther Minister of Culture, and two reference *The Black Times*, a magazine with an East Coast circulation published by Rhodes' father from

1968 to 1978. The magazine features articles on Civil Rights activists and other Black heroes at a time their experience was largely minimized or excluded from mainstream publications. These iconic images preserve and solidify a determination to continue the quest to address injustice and inequity, despite dispiriting setbacks and all-too-frequent incidents of brutality and death. Encircling the center panels are Rhodes' hand painted portraits of members of the community he serves as Intergenerational Community Arts Program Director at Bayview Services in San Francisco. In placing these portraits of everyday people on the same plane as powerful historical imagery, Rhodes draws attention to the value of each person, regardless of their fame or status.

Also on exhibition are a selection of threaded drawings from Rhodes' ongoing Outmigration Series of portraits. Reliably strong red thread is a defining element of these works. Inherited from his grandmother, the thread is heavy and durable, conveying a link of strength from generation to generation as does the sewing stitch she taught him. Rhodes honors the leaders and beacons in his life in these embellished graphite drawings, from widely recognized Diana Ross to neighbors, family members and others who inspired him along the way.

Together these artworks form a visual representation of the transformative power of art in the face of adversity, and an affirmation that, while the challenges may be great, the spirit of resistance and the drive for social change endure. This work speaks not only to and about a particular community but also to the universal human experience, inviting us to reflect on our shared histories while inspiring hope for a more just and compassionate future, throughlines that can speak to all of us.

Based in San Francisco William Rhodes began his sculptural practice on the East Coast, where he studied sculpture and furniture design at the Baltimore School of Fine Arts and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He later obtained his MFA from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Rhodes is one of the co-founders of the 3.9 Art Collective, a Black art collective in San Francisco formed in 2011 in response to the declining Black population in the city.

The East Gallery presents the Fog Fest Invitational Photography Show, featuring the winners of the annual Pacific Coast Fog Fest Photography Contest and one of the esteemed judges (Edwin Hacking). While the Contest has specific categories for entry, the Invitational provides the opportunity for each photographer to share the work they would like included in the exhibition. Photographs by Vadim Dymshits veer from his oft recognized landscapes. The series he presents captures the raw power of old hand tools, once essential, now displaced by power tools and automation. Kara Jade Quan-Montgomery's series reflects her connection to water and its many forms—a theme that is both physical and deeply personal. Water's ability to reflect not just the landscape but also our own emotions resonates with Kara's life experiences. Although she has always been afraid of water, she is drawn to it in photographs because of its captivating interplay of light, movement, and reflection. Each photograph in this collection offers a unique glimpse of this connection. Judge Edwin Hacking is presenting a collection of equine photographs, highlighting their spirit, individual character, confidence and innate ability to form connection with humans even if we don't understand why. The public is invited to a Gallery Walk and Conversation with the photographers on Sunday, Mar 9, beginning at 3pm.

Members of the Art Guild of Pacifica, in a group show are sharing works that each individually share their reflections on the theme of *Lost in the Weeds*. From literal interpretation of nature to whimsical fantasy, abstraction to finding oneself at a crossroads of detail, artists share their own perspective on the theme. The Art Guild will also offer small artworks and art cards for purchase (cash/check).

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 Mar 23. For more information call 650.355.1894 or visit SanchezArtCenter.org.