



VISUAL ARTS

'Public Art Matters' opens today



A model of Jose Parral's "Migrating Prostista," which was slated to be installed on West 32nd St. as part of the Port's now terminated tidelands art project.

Port's public art cutbacks prompt exhibit at Woodbury University

The name of the exhibition says it all: “Public Art Matters.”

It opens with a reception co-sponsored by Stone Brewing Company at 5-10 p.m. today (Aug. 8) at Woodbury University School of Architecture in Barrio Logan (2212 Main St.) and is up only through Aug. 11 (hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. after today).

“Public Art Matters” offers a rare overview of public art in San Diego, including elements and models of several pieces (including works by artists Margaret Noble, Jose Parral and Patrick Shields) that had been commissioned by the Port of San Diego and then subsequently terminated when funds set aside for public art were used to help fill in the Port’s budget deficit.

It also includes some of the region’s best public art moments, whether UC San Diego’s Stuart Collection, Art Produce’s community-minded projects in North Park or San Diego County’s installations at the County Administration Center.

Among the artists participating in the effort are Dia Bassett, Adam Belt, Neil Bociek, Roman de Salvo, Matt Devine, Miki Iwasaki, Anne Mudge, Noble, Parral, Christopher Puzio, Joyce Cutler Shaw, Shields, Shinpei Takeda and Allison Wiese.

The event also has a long list of participating arts groups and endorsements, ranging from Chicano Park to the San Diego Architectural Foundation.

“I hope people will see this and the word will be out that there’s a huge creative community in San Diego,” said Iwasaki, a member of the Port’s public art committee, a faculty member at Woodbury, and an artist whose work is permanently installed at the airport. “It’s not just individual artists, but institutions and organizations that are behind doing larger scale, public work. And any opportunity that we have to promote these types of pieces should be celebrated.”

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