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Inspired by California:

The second CA 101 art exhibit takes place over two weekends beginning Friday, June 7

California has inspired generations of artists and that continues today, across the state and into the beach cities as well. CA 101 2013, which opens this weekend at the historic AES Power Plant in Redondo Beach, explores how living in the Golden State inspires their work.

Produced by the nonprofit groups, Friends of Redondo Beach Arts and the Redondo Beach Art Group, CA 101 features 117 artists from 35 California cities. There are 180 works of art, according to curator and juror Nina Zak Laddon. The exhibit opens Friday, June 7, from 5 to 9 p.m., and will also take place June 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16.

"We feel that we really are open to everyone ... if we see that it has that feel that we're looking for of art influenced by the fact we're living in California and we're living in a little city like Redondo Beach or big metropolitan area like Los Angeles," Laddon said. "When we gather it all together the challenge is working with so many different mediums ... (and we) just make it flow so you feel like you're visiting the art world of California."

Exhibition director Sandra Liljenwall said it was a great challenge to narrow down the more than 600 submissions, but they wanted to get as many artists from around the state to interact with the local artists.

"The research takes about two or three months to really get through to all the organizations throughout the state, to contact individual artists and Nina and I have gone through many of the art shows to find any new budding artists or really wonderful ones that are there already and are well established."

Liljenwall said. "It has been quite a work of art so to speak getting all of this together."

Glass artist Denis Richardson, who helped design and construct the gallery, is working with 650 feet of gallery walls constructed and painted white for CA 101. He was also involved in the installation of Power of Art at AES in 2006.

"We built those walls with all volunteer work, donated materials, which at the time were nothing more than steel channels and plywood," said Richardson, who opened Catalina Glass Studio in 1975, in reference to Power of Art. "That was a good design then and I kept some of that same design. But this time it's a little more refined, but it's still a gallery setting in this industrial space and were not trying to block out the beauty of the building, which has all the charm of 1940s Americana. It's a beautiful industrial cathedral."

While there are more than 100 artists from all over the state taking part in the exhibit, the South Bay and neighboring cities are well represented.

Photographer Jim McKinnis, a Redondo Beach resident since 1989, has two pieces in CA 101, including a minimalist composition shot in a New York Gallery, which is the first in a series, as well as an ongoing series from Venice, Italy, that he has been working on the past five years.

"I go there every year at Carnival and meet a group of mostly Norwegian photographers and we photograph the performers that come to Venice ... people come from all over the world and they dress in 16th century costumes like they were going to a costume ball."

Flora Kao has two installations in CA 101, including "Ghost Grove," which is 10 translucent floating panels of white chiffon that are each painted with a leafless black tree, and "Trace," a rubbing of a traditional gabled brick home in Taipei, "another from of memorializing an object that's gone."

"There's something about these surfaces that are really beautiful ... traces of homes that have been torn down that are left in these abandoned parking lots that are littered through the city so there are these gaps that appear right before they build a new structure where you can see the structure that once stood there, like a trace of it," Kao said. "I was really interested in capturing a record of it before

it was covered over. Every time I go back something is removed and something plastered out or built over. There's this frenzy of transition there that echos what happens in L.A. also."

Sculpture Trinity Singer, a Redondo Beach resident, has three pieces in the exhibit, including "Hindsight," a 7-foot-tall sculpture that the artist said combines different elements of California, including bronze, oak tree, burlap and latex.

"A lot of my artwork has to do with what I call the condition of being human," Singer said. "I'm always searching for what that means. What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to live all these feelings and thoughts that are always flooding my mind and heart not knowing where to go? So ... everything is a long journey of trying to figure out who I am and how I fit and how the world fits with me."

Painter Irene Rafael has been exploring her Japanese heritage in her latest works including "Triple Goddess" and "Vision of Red" that will be on display at CA 101. The Palos Verdes resident joined the Redondo Beach Art Group after she sold one of her paintings at last year's event that took place at a pop art gallery on Pacific Coast Highway. Member Betty Mallorca gave her a call.

"I didn't know her (Mallorca) at all, but she asked me, 'Would you like a picture of your little red dot when your painting got sold?' I was like, 'Of course,'" Rafael said. "It was such a warm introduction and gesture from her. We started to email and correspond and she said, 'You should think about joining this group and I wasn't thinking of doing it, but it stuck in my mind because it was so welcoming.'"

Besides the exhibit, CA 101 has other events taking place including the fundraiser Art of the Wall on Sunday, June 9, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., that will raise money for the new mosaics on Harbor Drive. The event includes an art exhibit, live music and raffle prizes. Tickets are *Continued*

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\$30 in advance or \$35 at the door, \$20 for those ages 8 to 16, and children under 7 years old are free. For more information, visit www.friendsredondobeacharts.org, or call (310) 251-6830.

Art writer Peter Clothier will present his exercise in meditation and contemplation, "One Hour/One Painting,"

Friday, June 14, beginning at 4 p.m. to a limited group of 25. For more information, call (310) 720-4943 or sign up at a CA 101 art table. The event is \$25 per person.

Gallery hours are Saturday, June 8, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, June 9, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, June 14, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, June 15, from

11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The AES Power Plant is located at 1100 N. Harbor Drive.

For more information, visit www.Friendsredondobeacharts.org.