



NEWS

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El Camino College Art Professor Displays Work at United Nations Headquarters

El Camino College art professor Joyce Dallal is a featured artist in an exhibit titled, "Flight," now on display in the North East Gallery of the United Nations Visitors Lobby at its headquarters in New York.

The exhibit of sculptural installations on the theme of war and peace and its human consequences and implications is sponsored by the United Nations Department of Public Information and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It is supported in part by a grant from the Durfee Foundation and the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.

"I am honored to be able to show my piece at the UN," Dallal said. "My installation revolves around issues of war and peace and uses the Geneva Conventions as its starting point. In the context of the UN, the subject matter was of prime importance, whereas in an art venue, subject matter is often secondary, and I was happy to have my piece be considered in that context."

Dallal was honored last year with a \$10,000 City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Fellowship that supported this new work, first shown at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery from May 18 through July 13, 2008.

She created a large scale installation titled "Descent," which involves hundreds of paper airplanes made from Japanese paper and printed with the texts of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. Written in 1949, these texts address the treatment of victims, civilians, and prisoners of war. The airplanes are suspended in formation on thin steel cables attached to the ceiling of the gallery and to chunks of concrete on the floor.

The piece and its title, "Descent," have a double meaning, and their references are visual puns at odds with their intrinsic purposes.

Referencing the Japanese tradition of folding 1,000 origami cranes for luck, long life, and peace, the airplanes simultaneously suggest oppositional interpretations of menacing military formations and playful doves of peace. The planes/cranes struggle to create a lift but are pinned in an irreconcilable suspension, capturing a moment of paralysis.

Several El Camino College students from the Art Club and art classes helped with the project, and some teachers used it as a teaching opportunity – showing an artist's work in process, the kinds of decisions that are made, and the logistics involved in creating a large installation piece.

Dallal works in a variety of media and has exhibited nationally and internationally. She received her Master in Fine Arts from USC and is the recipient of several grants and fellowships.