



# NEWS

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## El Camino College Art Gallery to Present “Under the Influence: Both Artist and Collector”

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present the exhibit “Under the Influence: Both artist and collector” through December 13, with an artists' reception set for 7:00-9:00 p.m. November 29. The show will highlight works by artists who collect and whose collecting influences their artwork. As part of the reception festivities, artist Robert S. Hilton will play handcrafted instruments from his collection.

Most people collect things, accumulating a little of this and that, papers, old clothes, dishes, toys, hardware, tools, etc. These individual artists, however, are in another class altogether. They passionately amass objects that have impact on their thinking and the artwork that they produce. Some of the people in this group travel the world, gathering beautiful things from other cultures while others collect on E-Bay; some hunt in flea markets, some in the gutter, and others prefer the natural world. Some of the artists in this exhibit use the objects they accumulate very directly in their artwork while others reflect their collecting through genre or style.

Artists include:

- **Angie Bray** presents delicate photographs of dandelions and a shelf with an arrangement of small weighted feathers. These pieces are accompanied by a collection of tiny bowls, each with a dandelion puffs and a miniature forest of feathers.
- **Mark Clayton** shows humorous constructions made from sprinkler heads, butcher block and other antique hardware, accompanied by photographs of selected areas of his collection including a massive rack of color gradated costume jewelry, assorted tribal sculptures and Mid-Century painting.
- **Ruth Di Nicola** is both an artist and an antique dealer. Her often angelic, mixed media constructions, made from Victorian doll heads, tomato cages, globes, and assorted treasures give one the impression that they sprang into being out of their own volition. The odd celestial beings that result are part of a fascinating mythology that is both universal and personal.
- **Lynn Doran** travels the globe and collects what she loves most – African and Oceanic masks, objects and costumes. She presents an array of her own mixed media masks and figures inspired by her travel, alongside a spectacular, human-sized raffia figure.
- Painter, **James Griffith**, presents exquisite naturalistic paintings done primarily in tar collected from the La Brea Tar Pits. These poetic works appear alongside a cabinet of mysterious minerals in bottles that Griffith collects for use in his painting.
- Both musician and artist, **Robert S. Hilton**, presents finely crafted instruments constructed from branches, paint cans, springs, gourds and whatever else catches his eye. A few dented beauties accompany his teakettle trumpet from his collection.

- **Jacqueline M. Jefferies'** flamboyant multi-stranded necklaces and beaded sculptural animals relate closely to African tribal jewelry and effigies. In her own work Jefferies uses contemporary plastic soldiers and animals and glass beads. These are shown with an African fertility deity from the artist's collection
- Assemblage artist **Jeffrey Kibbe** presents intensely narrative works that are dense with objects and mystery. Kibbe's works are made from a combination of found objects – both natural and man-made, combined with his own painstaking carpentry. These sculptural works are shown with a conglomeration of items that he collects, from hardware to nests.
- Sculptor **David Lovejoy** exhibits mixed media constructions that revel in relationship to history in addition to the pure love of objects. Lovejoy collects all manner of objects – from a zoetrope to Victorian window frames. He exhibits his wry sculptural works alongside a few choice objects from his varied collection.
- **Michael Lewis Miller** grew up in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. He collects antiques from this area and constructs highly imaginative sculptural and installation works that echo his love of this heritage. In the mixed media "Rebus," created for "Under the Influence," Miller utilizes traditional embroidery and found objects – some old and some new.
- **Nancy W. Romero** exhibits whimsical and sometimes startling mechanical toys that she has fashioned in wood. The action is an essential element of the expression making it imperative that viewers turn the crank of each piece. Romero's personal collection includes animated toys from Mexico, Africa and the northwest coast of the U.S.
- Drinking straws, clothespins, tape measures and safety pins are the stuff of **Karyl Sisson's** collection. Through extremely careful manipulation of these commonplace objects, Sisson creates remarkable sculptural works of great precision and wonder. Herein she exhibits her works made of drinking straws.
- Through digital manipulation and enlargement of Polaroid images taken of his collection of action figures, **Clayton Spada** produced an enigmatic series, "Visitations." By subtly combining low-tech and high-tech methods, Spada enables the viewer to enter into a captivating alternate world. These works are accompanied by several of the action figurines.
- Poet, printmaker and painter, **Laura Stickney** presents a vibrant series of paintings in oil on panel, inspired by her collection of seedpods and odd Victorian jewelry. Stickney shows this work in a wall unit deftly created by **Vilma Mendillo**, in which she pairs objects and paintings.
- **Lizzy Waronker** exhibits potent assemblage works that spring from personal experience as well as referencing cultural anthropology. Through use of nests, bits of wood, miniatures and low-tech electrical wiring, Waronker allows the viewer to peek into a private mythological realm. A happy face container of designer toothbrushes is on view from her collection.

The El Camino College Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and from noon to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call curator Susanna Meiers at 310-660-3010. Admission to the El Camino College Art Gallery and gallery events is free. On-campus parking is \$2.

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