



NEWS

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El Camino College Art Professors Showcase their Work at LAX

From urban landscapes to birds in flight, the art of two El Camino College professors has greeted thousands of travelers on their way to and from Los Angeles.

ECC art professors Randall Von Bloomberg and Joyce Dallal have both participated in a public art program at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The program is part of a partnership between LAX and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, designed to transform public spaces into art spaces by featuring temporary art exhibitions and installations throughout the airport.

Von Bloomberg's work "Tathata" can be seen at Terminal 7/8 (United Airlines) through March 31.

"Tathata" is a Sanskrit word that expresses the profound awareness and appreciation of reality within each single moment of life. Von Bloomberg believes that tathata is often revealed in the seemingly mundane, such as observing the sun illuminating an asphalt road, or noticing the blowing wind along a grassy parkway.

A Los Angeles-based artist, Von Bloomberg is inspired by the urban landscape all around, in particular, the trees and plant forms that thrive around freeways and other human-made structures.

"While commuting by car, often alone, I find myself fascinated by these in-between spaces," said Von Bloomberg, who has taught art at El Camino College since 2008. "My art magnifies and translates these single moments into experiences of tathata. Each painting develops slowly over time through a consecutive layering of color, value, and stroke. When viewed up close, the painted surface appears as an abstraction of marks and spaces, not unlike the minute particles and spaces that make up matter in our physical world.

"The airport terminal is a perfect place for this exhibition because it is such an in-between space."

Professor Dallal's work "Elevate," was displayed in LAX's Terminal 3 in the fall of 2013. "Elevate" transformed the terminal's atrium in dramatic fashion, surrounding travelers with two bird-like formations of paper airplanes suspended in flight.

The installation consisted of hundreds of colorful and seemingly delicate paper airplanes, handmade from Japanese paper and imprinted with excerpts from the Third (1929) and Fourth (1949) Geneva Conventions, international treaties addressing the treatment of civilians and prisoners during war. Interspersed among these were white paper planes printed with the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which details fundamental rights for all people.

Dallal works in a variety of media and has exhibited nationally and internationally, including an exhibit in the United Nations Visitors Lobby at its headquarters in New York. She has been a faculty member at El Camino College since 1992 is also the recipient of several grants and fellowships.

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