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2016

Prison Arts Collective CB1 Gallery Press Release

Prison Arts Collective

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We are pleased to announce the exhibition and accompanying book, *Through the Wall: Prison Arts Collective*, at CB1-G Gallery from May 14 through May 29, 2016 with an opening reception at the gallery on May 14, 2016 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. *Through the Wall* showcases the diversity of artistic styles and depth of creative expression among artists that are incarcerated while also demonstrating the possibilities inherent in a successful collaboration between a university and prisons.

"Through the Wall recognizes the mutual exchange of songs, words, pictures, ideas, encouragement, direction, and includes sharing, dialogue, and debate at times."

—D. Eagan, participant, PAC at CIM

This exhibition will include dozens of paintings, drawings, and handmade objects created by participants in the CSUSB Community-based Art (CBA) Prison Arts Collective (PAC) projects at three California state prisons, offering viewers the unique opportunity to see and reflect on works by those participating in university-led visual art, art history, and creative writing classes while incarcerated.

Reflective of the collaborative and non-hierarchical spirit of CBA programming, the exhibition includes artworks by men and women participating at all levels and working in a variety of media. This includes participants in advanced critique classes who have taught themselves to paint and draw while incarcerated and gained art historical context for their practice, as well as those participating in their first-ever art beginning painting or sculptural crafts classes with the PAC project.

All works are donated by the artists with the dual goal of sharing their work with a wider audience and raising funds to support ongoing CBA programming in prisons and in the community. Viewers are invited to participate through a written or visual reflection in a collaborative response book, an informal tour with a Teaching Artist, and by making a donation to the CBA Prison Arts Collective in exchange for art.

Donation Exchange

All artworks are donated to CBA from men and women in the Prison Arts Collective projects at three CA state prisons, the CA Institution for Men (CIM) and the CA Institution for Women (CIW) in Chino and the CA State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC). All art is available for a suggested donation price. All proceeds from the exhibition will support ongoing CBA programming in the prisons and community.

Exhibition Book

Through the Wall also includes a book, edited by assistant professor of English Alexandra Cavallaro and MFA candidate Matthew McMilon, and designed by Julian Rubalcaba. The book is divided into two sections: "Visions" includes images of the art from the exhibition and "Voices" includes creative writing by participants. The book also includes an introductory section with texts by Teaching Artists, images of the project in process, and an opening essay by CBA/PAC founder Annie Buckley.

Archive

All images included in this exhibition have been photographed and archived by the CSUSB Visual Resources Center. They will be available online via the CBA website.

Viewer Engagement and Social Practice

"Ask a Teaching Artist" is a social practice collaboration by teaching artists in the Prison Arts Collective, who will be available in the gallery from 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. during the run of the exhibition. Take an informal tour of the exhibition or learn about facilitating art in the prison directly from PAC Teaching Artists.

"Collaborative Reflection" is a participatory project offering viewers the opportunity to join the dialogue by providing feedback, questions, comments, and/or visual responses. This book will be shared with participants following the exhibition.

About Prison Arts Collective

The Prison Arts Collective is a project of California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) Community-based Art (CBA), an initiative dedicated to expanding access to art at sites that would not otherwise have access to it. CBA is founded and directed by artist/writer and associate professor of Visual Studies, Annie Buckley, in collaboration with students, alumni, and volunteer artists and writers. The Prison Arts Collective is a project of CBA dedicated to facilitating art in local prisons and supporting further collaborations between the state university and prison systems.

About CSUSB Community-based Art

CSUSB Community-based Art is dedicated to facilitating art throughout the local community at sites that would not otherwise have access to it, including after school programs for at-risk children, shelters for youth, low-income housing for seniors, and correctional facilities including state prisons, the CSUSB Reentry Center, and County Probation. On campus, students learn about the social, cultural, and economic barriers to access to art. On site, students, alumni, and volunteers shift the paradigm by facilitating art with populations that are vulnerable and at-risk.

Credits

Organizational Team: Jessica Agustin, April Baca, Annie Buckley, Alexandra Cavallaro, Matthew McMilon, Heather Roessler, and Christina Quevedo

Exhibition Design: Humberto Reynoso

Book and Invitation Design: Julian Rubalcaba

Artists

Because of the large number of artists included in this exhibition and the fact that many remain anonymous due to either personal or institutional choice, the artists' names are included with the works list. Please note: all participating artists from California Institution for Women are listed as anonymous upon request of CIW.

Special Events

Opening Reception May 14, 2016, from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

"Ask a Teaching Artist" during gallery hours for duration of exhibition

Closing Reception and Book Party May 29, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Special Thanks

Clyde Beswick and everyone at CB1 Gallery

CSUSB Office of Community Engagement

CSUSB Visual Resource Center

Through the Wall: Prison Arts Collective at CB1-G Gallery, May 14 – May 29, 2016, 1923 S. Santa Fe Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90021. Gallery Hours: Mon-Sat 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact gallery at 1-213-806-7889 or Annie Buckley at abuckley@csusb.edu.



Watercolor/text by PAC participant at CIW



Collage painting by Frasier, participant at CIM



Collaborative Mural, created by participants and teaching artists in CBA Prison Arts Collective at the California Institution for Men, Chino, Lead Artists: S. Hunter and Nancy Stevens., 45' x 6', 2014-15.