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Two new exhibitions consider the world outside and the universe within.

On Saturday, February 16, 2019, the San Diego Art Institute (SDAI) opens two dynamic exhibitions by contemporary regional artists, each looking at the world from a different perspective.

DEVIATE / LANDSCAPE

In looking out to the world, ***DEVIATE / LANDSCAPE*** illustrates the physical realm in ways that challenge perception. It is a stunningly contemporary view of landscape.

For centuries, artists have depicted landscapes around the world using the familiar elements of land, sky, and natural features. By contrast, many contemporary artists insert strong points of view in their portrayals; they might deconstruct landscape features, render the landscape in unexpected media, or so significantly abstract what they see as to question its reality.

In so doing, contemporary artists reflect a very of-the-moment world view.

DEVIATE / LANDSCAPE features 21 artists who, working in their studios or in the outdoors, push the boundaries of landscape depiction. To make their point, they use fabric, books, painting, works on paper, photography, sculpture, video, and even bacteria. No media is off limits.

DEVIATE / LANDSCAPE runs February 16 to March 31, 2019 and is curated by San Diego State University painting professor Carlos Castros Arias and SDAI Deputy Director, Sarah Trujillo-Porter. The exhibition focuses exclusively on artists from Southern California and Northern Baja.

Featured artists are: Miguel Arzabe, Lana Z Caplan, Carolina Caycedo, Remi Dalton, Ashley Fenderson, Jessica Ling Findley, Eleanor Greer, Richard Keely, Adam John Manley, Carolina Montejo, Hillary Mushkin, Arzu Ozkal, Scott Polach, Rachelle Reichert, Jon Rodley, Daniel Ruanova, Ali Silverstein, Eva Struble, Bradley Gray Tucker, César Vázquez, and Jevijoe Vitug

This exhibition is presented in partnership with San Diego State University School of Art + Design and Art Council Ambassadors.

(Continued)

THAT WE SHOULD BE HEIRS

Born in the United States into a family that escaped war-ravaged Vietnam, Trinh Mai is an interdisciplinary artist whose work is rooted in inherited memories, especially those of war and migration.

Since much of her emotional inheritance was sensed and absorbed wordlessly – Mai's parents didn't discuss the war with her until she was in her mid-20's - Trinh Mai is particularly alert to the burdens that can accompany legacy. And as an artist, she believes strongly in the power of art to relieve some of those burdens.

THAT WE SHOULD BE HEIRS is an installation that offers a step toward healing. It asks that visitors express their fears in a written note, bind the note tightly with ribbon, and place it in an alcove of a healing wall created by the artist. The note will never be read by anyone but the author.

Trinh Mai has experienced that real healing can begin by recognizing and acknowledging fear in a place outside your own mind. As well, she believes that a consequence of seeing the many other notes placed in the healing wall will evidence that none of us is alone in carrying burdens.

THAT WE SHOULD BE HEIRS seeks to expiate some of the fear we are all heir to.

THAT WE SHOULD BE HEIRS premieres at SDAI on February 16 and continues through March 31. It then travels to the University of Washington.

ABOUT SDAI: San Diego Art Institute is the premier regional contemporary arts center in San Diego and has been advocating and providing a platform for artists for over 75 years. SDAI's mission is to exhibit world-class regional contemporary art and foster cultural equity. Currently, our programs reach over 100,000 individual artists, youth and visitors each year. As the only contemporary arts institution housed in Balboa Park, SDAI is a catalyst for advancing high-caliber regional contemporary art and artists and allows for the artistic visions and voices of our region to be seen, heard, and celebrated.
