

The Beach Reporter | June 27, 2014

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Artists flock to Redondo: CA 101 art exhibit, with more than 100 artists, will take place at the Redondo Beach Pier

"Pinpricks and Portions" will be one of more than 230 pieces of art on display at the third annual CA 101 exhibit in Redondo Beach.

More than 100 artists from all over California will showcase more than 230 pieces of art at the third annual CA 101 art exhibit, which opens at the Pier Plaza on the Redondo Beach Pier, with a reception on Friday, June 20.

Forty artists from Redondo Beach, six from Hermosa Beach and three from Manhattan Beach are featured out of the 39 cities represented in CA 101. The art will occupy several business offices in the Pier Plaza. According to curator Nina Zak Laddon, they received more than 650 entrees, but selected 231 in total. Photography was easily the most popular medium submitted and accepted to CA 101, followed by mixed media and oil painting.

"What's interesting to see as a curator is to see so many submissions in photography," Laddon said. "Photography nowadays is leaping giant steps ... Photoshop is like history, antiquity. Other very interesting things are happening in photography. The stuff that came in is absolutely gorgeous."

Exhibition director Sandra Liljenwall said the interaction between the local artists and those visiting has been "wonderful."

"The response from the out-of-town artists just blew us away," Liljenwall said. "We thought it was a good idea, but you never know how people are going to respond ... we can get a connection going between north and south and east and west, all throughout the state. I think it's very valuable because it offers so much to the artists in the state, and in doing so, it establishes Redondo Beach as an art center, and that's what our goal is."



Pinpricks and Potions, BB McIntyre

Shane Swindler is one of those artists exhibiting work for the first time in the beach cities. The Los Angeles resident, who graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007, is a furniture and cabinet maker by trade. He took laminated plywood, made it perfectly square, fastened it and soaked it in water, making the geometric structure curve.

"I got tired of making things so nice," said Swindler of his trade. "I wanted to make some stuff fall apart. Water is the enemy to wood workers, but when you use it, it's kind of fun."

CA 101 couldn't be accomplished without the help of numerous volunteers. Laddon called Sue Wood her "top

volunteer." Wood said she has enjoyed the camaraderie that the artists and volunteers develop. Volunteering has helped create friendships and has helped with her artistic endeavors.

"I want the art to be perfect and I want everything to be nice," Wood said. "They've put a lot of hours in. When I'm down here painting the walls I get to look out and see the beautiful blue sky. That's inspiration for me."

Laddon said CA 101 is "so much work" that she contemplates never doing it again, but then the "challenging, gorgeous" locations inspire her. Last year CA 101 took place at the AES Power Plant.

"After the power plant what else can you do?" Laddon said. "Being here and walking and seeing

the potential really inspired me. The challenge was to reach new artists, to bring people into Redondo Beach. I feel that this show is really contributing to the economy because artists are booking hotels, planning to come and eat at the pier. I really feel that we are developing a reputation where good shows are being produced."

Gallery hours are Saturday June 21 and 28, from 1 to 8 p.m.; Sunday June 22 and 28, from 1 to 6 p.m.; and June 24 to 27 (Wednesday through Friday), from 1 to 7 p.m.

For more information, visit friendsredondobeacharts.org.

