

Redondo Beach's CA 101 art exhibit explores fake news, immigration, politics

Fake news, immigration, President Trump ... issues that have made headlines in recent months have also inspired artists.

"A lot of what's happening in the world is being reflected in the work that artists are doing now," said curator Nina Zak Laddon, including the dozens of artists taking part in the sixth annual CA 101, which opens Friday, June 2, with an artist reception.

Presented by the Friends of Redondo Beach Arts, CA 101, the art exhibit named "It Takes a Village," finds a new location every year, from the AES Power Plant to last year's exhibit at the South Bay Galleria. This year, the pop-up gallery moves into a 10,000 square-foot furniture store on Avenue I that will soon be demolished for new development.

Redondo Beach's Scott Meskill is one of 137 California contemporary artists participating in CA 101. His sculpture "Twitch," with salvaged material including wood and metal, reflects his feelings on the current political climate, which makes him "twitch," he said.

The wood in "Twitch," large beams from a home, was collected from a friend whose husband had died.

"By the time I got there, they were all termite and rotten ... she had a stack of them and moved them, but I was like, 'Oh, let me see what I can do with these. I sat on them and carved away and chipped away at all the termites, then this piece of wood came out. The wood has a story, it has a value to her. Her husband had built the deck and then he got cancer and he died and there's so much life in that one piece.'

Los Angeles artist Mike Saijo's installation reflects Japanese American history and the 75th anniversary of

Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The order led to the internment camps and the incarceration of numerous Japanese Americans.

"There will be a film projected from 1920s and 1930s of immigrants coming to the U.S.-never before seen footage," Saijo said. "It's been locked up in garages and weathered, but I've been able to digitize it and present this footage. It interesting stuff where you see what life was like back then."

Saijo will also be hosting a workshop, "Reconstructing Memories," Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Participants will have their photographs printed on local newspapers and then mounted on wood panels for them to take home.

"We'll have a stack of newspapers and they can find a section that tells their story," he said. "We can tie it into our current historical situation and the story of what they look like at this time, fusing that together to have a piece they can take home and remember this and think about history in terms of our own historical situation, whether it's Trump or anything else that is happening in the world."

Redondo Beach photographer Jerry B. Neill uses Riviera Village as the subject of some of his photography. When his advertising agency "fell apart," he really started to notice sunsets when he wasn't working long hours. He also noticed Riviera Village was flourishing. One image in CA 101 is of the Summer Carnival at Riviera Village, which he shot from a Ferris wheel.

"Carnivals are always kind of fun and there's always something a little bit creepy about it, but especially a beach carnival is just something everybody remembers and

a little kid kind of comes back to you," Neill said.

Dennis Richardson and Carolyn LaLiberte are collaborating on an installation, "The Safe Place," which is "about how the brain might organize thoughts and how we imagine our experiences and put them into stories."

"It's a place you might discover on your own like a hidden place, but your own personal discovery," Richardson said. "It's all imaginary, like we make up our own stories about our experiences. it's undefined, but open to interpretation."

Curator Laddon said other events include a rented section by the Experimental Artists of South Bay and a Gift Gallery, which features crafts from more than 50 artists. A wine tasting by the Boisset Collection takes place Monday, June 5, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and are limited and can be ordered by calling (310) 720-4943. Also, the TEDx Redondo Beach discussion "Documented," with moderator John La Rock, takes place Wednesday, June 7, beginning at 6 p.m.

Laddon described "Documented" as a discussion about "how photography effects us, how it's being used for journalism to document war and political stuff and how we document ourselves with selfies." Tickets can be found at tedxredondobeach.com.

CA 101 is open through Sunday, June 11, at 219 Ave. I. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday, noon to 7 p.m.; closed on Monday; and Tuesday through Friday, from noon to 6 p.m.

For more information, visit friendsredondobeacharts.org, or call (310) 617-2840.

