

DEPT. ON DISABILITY

It's About Abilities

Annual art show at City Hall showcases the talents of the disabled.



El Nino by Mario Recinos.



Untitled by Milton Davis.



Untitled by Tiffany Boyd.

Story and photos courtesy Sheridan Keyser, Dept. on Disability

A unique art show ran in City Hall Sept. 23 through Oct. 23. The purpose of the show was to display the talents of artists of have disabilities.

This is the second year for this show. "I thought of the idea about two years ago after reading some newspaper articles about persons with disabilities who were doing art works," said Sheridan Keyser, Management Analyst, Department on Disability. "I started making some contacts with nonprofit groups who dealt with people with disabilities, including physical therapy and rehab. I managed to collect about 20 to 25 paintings last year, and we received favorable comments."

This year, Keyser and Richard Ray obtained loans of more than 60 works of art by 19 different artists, all of whom have disabilities. One side of the gallery was predominantly by deaf artists, and the other side from artists with other disabilities. Regina Houston-Swain, Executive Director of Department on Disability, was also active in arranging this exhibit and had several of her paintings on display.

The goal was to show that persons living with disabilities have abilities and talents just like anyone else, and secondly, to serve as inspiration and encouragement for others with disabilities to "stretch" themselves and go beyond their disability to their real abilities and talents, Keyser says. "Art was just the genre for displaying talents and abilities but a graphic one that people could easily see and recognize."

Along with Keyser and Houston-Swain, the other artists participating in the show were: Tiffany Boyd; Morris Broderson; Laksmi Camp;

Jonathan Coscollueia; Milton Davis; Orhan Guven; Leroy Hamilton; Brigid LaBonge; Victoria Lim; Christine Olson; Alnoe Tabanura Paler; Mary Rappazzo; Mario Recinos; Daniel Vargas; and Judy Wachner.

The Department on Disability ensures that all Los Angeles City programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities, enhancing the quality of life and promoting self-sufficiency of the disability community.

The department was created by the mayor and City Council in 1998 and is recognized as the first and only City department of its kind in the nation. It was named by the United Nations as an international model for a major innovation by a municipal government.

The department is thankful for the support from Councilman Tony Cardenas and his staff for co-sponsorship for this show, and CALIF (Communities Actively Living Independent & Free) and the Exceptional Children's Foundation for their support.



Untitled by Orhan Guven.



Untitled by Christina Yoo.



Blues and Jazz by Mario Recinos.



The art show brightened the City Hall bridge.



Draw by Mario Recinos.

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