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**The OsCene: Contemporary Art and Culture in OC
November 7, 2004 to February 27, 2005**

The OsCene: Contemporary Art and Culture in OC, November 7, 2004 to February 27, 2005, is a survey exhibition of Orange County artists working in all media including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, multi-media installations, video/film, sound/music, architecture, fashion, and tattoo art. By emphasizing the often underestimated art of the immediate area, The OsCene (pronounced o-seen) serves as a counterpoint to the Orange County Museum of Art's broader themed 2004 California Biennial that runs concurrently with The OsCene.

In fact, it has been over twenty years since a survey exhibition of contemporary art in Orange County has been organized by a museum (the last major effort being done by Newport Harbor Art Museum in 1979). Tremendous growth and change have occurred both to the art scene and culture in Orange County during this period. Consider these facts: there are now more people per square foot in Orange County than in Los Angeles; there has been a substantial increase in contemporary art centers, galleries, and dedicated artists residences; art departments at OC's colleges and universities have grown dramatically; cities like Santa Ana and Laguna Beach are increasingly becoming known and are marketing themselves as world-wide art destinations; Orange County has an umbrella arts organization, Arts Orange County, that partly serves to focus and highlight the arts here; and OC also sports the most active chapter of The Business Committee for the Arts, the national organization which recognizes and encourages corporate support of the arts. In addition, there is now a weekly periodical, the OC Weekly, which pulls together the art sprawl of OC each week, not to mention several magazines, Coast and Riviera, which devote large sections to the exhibitions and artist's of OC.

So, how good is the art that is being made in Orange County? The OsCene attempts to answer this question with its survey exhibition drawn from over 400 artists who submitted work in an open call.

The curatorial team includes Tyler Stallings, Laguna Art Museum chief curator; Jacqueline Bunge, Laguna Art Museum curatorial assistant; Keiko Beatie, guest curator of film; and Tim Schwab, guest curator of music. The exhibition has been organized by Laguna Art Museum.

Major support to make this exhibition possible has been provided by OC Weekly, www.ocweekly.com.

Film editing services have been underwritten by Optical Visions www.opticalvisions.com, with special support from Streaming Media www.streamingmedia.com.

ART

The 40 artists and designers included in the exhibition are:

Misty Burrue!
Bryan Cantley
Amy Caterina
Torii Cooper
Alexandra de Alcala
Tom Dowling
Daniel du Plessis
Jorg Dubin
Karen Feuer-Schwager
Kebe Fox
Sherié Franssen
Jacques Garnier
Jeff Gillette
Jimi Gleason
Marcia Hafif
Laurie Hassold
Chris Hoff
Chuck Huang
Image Comics
Fat Mark Kaake
Jason Keller
Jeff Koegel
Matt Kotch
Aaron Kraten
Lady, Sir & Her
Viet Le
(Mr.) Dana Lovell
Robbie Miller
Christine Nguyen
Willie O'Leary
Opie Ortiz
Michael Reafsnyder
Clayton Spada
Vonn Cummings Sumner
Ed Templeton
Elizabeth Turk
Steve Vandemon
Emigdio Vasquez
Richard Ward
Chie Yamayoshi

In the last few years, the cultural face of Orange County has been enhanced with the addition of vibrant contemporary art centers, galleries, and artist residencies including contemporary art centers such as Grand Central Art Center in the Santa Ana Artist Village, Huntington Beach Art Center, and the Beall Center for Art and Technology at University of California Irvine. New, cutting-edge contemporary galleries include The Shed in Newport Beach, Square Blue Art in Costa Mesa, The Office: An Art Space in Huntington Beach, Greenwood Chebithes Gallery and [seven-degrees], both in Laguna Beach. Many of these organizations also have residency programs, which have hosted well-known artists from across the nation and abroad. They join already established galleries and organizations that have been focusing on cutting-edge contemporary art such as Peter Blake Gallery, Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, both in Laguna Beach, Chapman University's Guggenheim Gallery in Orange, University of California Irvine Art Gallery, California State University Fullerton's Main Gallery, and the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art in Santa Ana.

FILM

The 41 drama, animated, and documentary films include:

Feature Films

Arizona, Daniel Holechek & David Holechek
Drag Nuns, Ren Blood
Farther Than The Eye Can See, Michael Brown & Josh Colover
Nihi, Brooks Guyer & Jimbeau Andrews
Nobody's Hero, Michael Spencer Taylor
She Said, Trish Kenney & Andrew VanderStoep
Will Unplugged, Rajan Shandil

Short Films

Actor, Walter Koenig, Bob Conrad
Adored in Languages I Don't Understand, Jon Beau Lee
Ally, Jason Mirch
Angel, Joe McGarvey
Answers of Emptiness, George Russell
The Art Police, No Exit, Tim Russ
Before My Eyes, Mathew Lundstrom
Blue Note 10 Shorts, Jeff Beals
Blue Yonder Ranch, Vanessa Harris
Breathe, Kyle Brown
Claustrophobia, Brad McLaughlin
Collorgo's Day Off, Alex Melli
The Day of Ray, RJ Ward
Elevator Etiquette, Melody Rock
Falling, Derek Doi
Fleeting, Robin Brown
Frame Job Miki Dora in Hollywood, Antonio Beecroft
Gotan Mora, Andres Buigues
Head, Chris Weller
The Horse Trader, Alex Melli
How Sweet It Is, Shea McIntee & Hoss Sarbaz
Humdrum, Bryan Irving
The One Who Wears Red, Heather Coker
Paddy Takes A Meeting, Dermott Petty
Pagliacci's Curse, Wout Brusselaers
Possibilities A Tribute To Special Olympics, Julie Ford
Rastakhiz, Iman Afar & Hoss Sabaz
Rules Of The Game, Marton Varo
Silent Village, Rajendra Desai
Snake vs. Iron Fist, Colter Freeman
Unspoken, Stephan Jonas
War, Michael Spencer Taylor
Within An Endless Sky, Lance Winkel

The guest curator for the film component of The OsCene is Keiko Beatie, Director of Program Development and Special Projects for the Newport Beach Film Festival. Keiko is also a contributing writer to Film Festival Today, Filmfestivals.com, Digital Media Net, Kodak Campus Beat, to name a few. Furthermore Keiko is a creative consultant and programmer for the San Diego Cinema Society and Laguna Beach Film Society while also speaking on panels at many festivals and filmmaker Programs.

“The Orange County film scene is a growing creative force in comparison to 10 years ago,” states Beatie. With the development of the Orange Coast College Film Department, and the expansion of the Chapman University, Dodge College of Film Media and Art, young filmmakers from across the country now consider Orange County as an emerging force to study film. Consequently, the films made from OC film schools are now screening at the top Film Festivals in the world, winning awards, and respect. The Writers Workshop Program at UCI has had the success of Academy Award winning films, with Schindler’s List being most noteworthy. Arts in Orange County have transcended to reach this diverse community. With that, film and filmmakers are leading the way with creativity and excellence to highlight the visuals of cinema.

MUSIC

The 17 bands include:

The Barstow Boys
The Blank Tapes
Blue Wales
Geisha Girls
Gentlemen of Leisure
Image Bulletin
Layton
Lomax Monk
Mad Man Moon
Northwest
OO Soul
Part the clouds
Pistolero
Satisfaction
60 Watt Kid
Sound Head
Stanley Lucas Revolution

With its intersection of material wealth, suburban ennui, teenage unrest, and beach/skate culture, Orange County has historically been a breeding ground for popular and influential music acts. No Doubt, Rage Against the Machine, The Offspring and Social Distortion are just a few of the many who symbolize Orange County's contribution to popular culture. But who's making the noise now? This is what we are exploring with The OsCene Sound Wall.

This interactive sound installation will give the viewers a chance to see and listen to upcoming Orange County bands. From folk influenced rock to wildly experimental, all of it will be represented in a colorful hands-on installation featuring ephemera from the bands.

The guest curator for the music component of The OsCene is Tim Schwab, a founding member of The Revolver Project and local DJ both for clubs and on KUCI 88.9 F.M. in Irvine. Schwab has also preformed in bands and various musical projects in Orange County for over 15 years.