

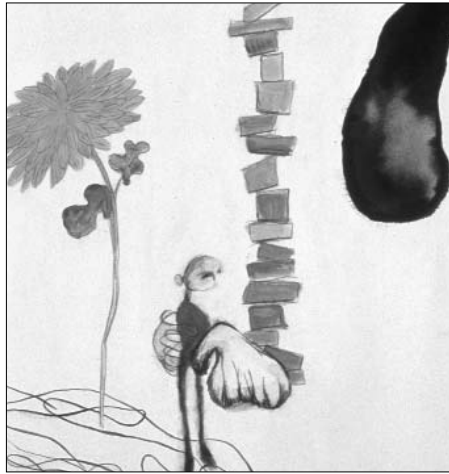
Juried Annual 2003-04

Juror: Heidi Zuckerman Jacobson

December 17, 2003 - January 24, 2004

Two-hundred and two artists submitted a collective 1,460 works. Juror Heidi Zuckerman Jacobson selected 40 pieces created by 15 Bay Area artists: Katherine Aoki, Lisa Blatt, Betsy Boyle, Nancy Burky, Mia Capodilupo, Antonio Contreras, Deborah Craig, Kriss De Jong, Laura Kamian, Kylin O'Brien, Fernando Reyes, Myong Stebbins, Patricia Stone, Ama Torrance and David Wyffels. From an eclectic media range of threaded wax polyester pieces, video projections on photos and more, these unique works were selected based on their ability to invoke the juror's curiosity.

We had a successful opening reception on December 18, with nearly 200 artists and supporters in attendance. Congratulations to Betsy Boyle, Kylin O'Brien, and Myong Stebbins for receiving Juror Commendation Awards.



Heidi Zuckerman Jacobson is the MATRIX Curator at the Berkeley Art Museum and teaches at the new Curatorial Program at CCA.

Artists' Talks are scheduled Saturday, January 10, 1 pm. Meet the artists, view slides and hear about their work. The exhibition closes on Saturday, January 24, 5 PM.

Left: "Body LanguageIX" (detail), Oil & Ink on Panel (2003) by Fernando Reyes; Above: Award winner, Myong Stebbins' "Riverwalk" (detail), Watercolor & Ink on Ragboard (2002).

East Bay Open Studios 2004

Deadline to Register: February 7, 2004
Studios Open: June 5, 6, 12 & 13



In the not-so-distant future, Pro Arts will be organizing the participating artists for East Bay Open Studios' 23rd year. For those wanting to participate, register on-line (www.proarts-gallery.org) and save \$5 or fill out a paper form by February 7, 2004. Workshops for registered artists include:

SHARING SPACE: If you need studio space or have a place to share, this is your meeting! January 15, 7 PM

OPEN SLIDE PHOTOGRAPHY
Photographer Uri Korn will be available January 17, Noon-5PM. The cost is \$20 per slide. The slides will be ready by February 7. Please call 763-4361 to confirm your seat. Space is limited.

EBOS 101

This is a great primer for first-time participants and for those artists who want a brush-up course in prepping your studio, pricing your work, and more! Lead by Pro Arts and guests Rae Louise Hayward & Margo Rivera-Weiss. February 26, 7 PM.

PR101

We will cover the complexity of successfully promoting yourself as an artist, building a mailing list, making professional contacts and advertising. March 18, 7 PM

DON'T FORGET! The MesArt Virtual Gallery goes live MARCH 1, 2004! Details on-line.

Insomnia[Awakening]: Chandra Garsson

February 18 - March 27, 2004

Chandra Garsson's exhibition, *Insomnia [Awakening]*, focuses on the culture of violence that perpetrates child abuse and sexual abuse of women, as told through the personal experiences of one local artist. The effects of child abuse and sexual assault are manifold at the scene of the trauma: pain, terror and humiliation wreak havoc in the mind and emotions. Lifelong repercussions can touch every aspect of the survivor's existence. Chandra Garsson's artistic journey is a profound reflection on the dignity of those who survive crimes of violence and neglect. By confronting violent crime as individuals and as a society, we empower the survivor, disempower the criminal, and protect potential victims. Let us, as a community, open our eyes to the reality around us—converse, tell, report, listen, and open our hearts to the survivors among us.

Curated by Svea Lin Vezzone and Chandra Garsson, this exhibition is supported by the Oakland City Council and by the City of Oakland's Cultural Funding Program.

A catalogue of the works, each accompanied by a written account of the artist's experiences, will be available for sale during the exhibition. In conjunction with the display of visual art, the following weekly programs are scheduled:

Artists' Reception on Thursday, February 19, 6 - 8 PM. Music by Steven Halpern. Words by Daphne Muse, Jeanne Powell and featured artist, Chandra Garsson.

All poetry programs were curated by Kim McMillon. Each begin at 7 PM at Pro Arts:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18:

The Courage to Heal by Ellen Bass

Renowned author will be giving a talk on the importance of creativity and healing in the recovery process. She will be reading poetry and prose with several of her poetry students. \$8-10 at the door.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26:

Men's Night - Film showing of "Last Chance for Eden" by Lee Mun Wah. A conversation with Mars & Venus. \$3-7 at the door.

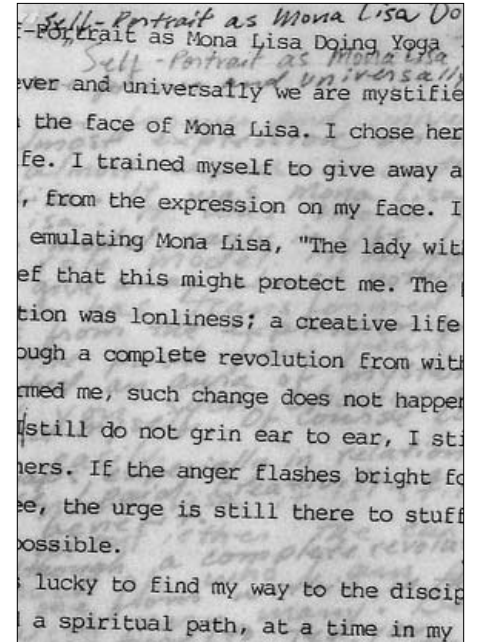
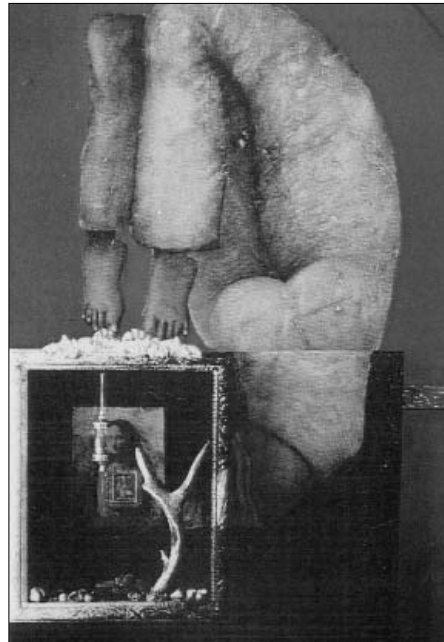
THURSDAY, MARCH 4: *Poetry Reading* with Teresa LeYung Ryan, Chokwadi (Moderator), Mark G., and Felicia Thompson. \$3-7 at the door.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11: *Poetry Reading* featuring poets Claire Ortalda, Adelle Foley, Mary Mackey, and Wendy Williams. \$3-7 at the door.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18: *Poetry* by Avotcja (Moderator), John Tnuni, Leslie Simon, Asante George, with violin accompaniment by Gael Alcock. \$3-7 at the door.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25: *Poetry* by Debra Grace Khattab (Moderator), Mary Rudge, Jennifer Stone, Alta, and Shailja Patel. \$3-7 at the door.

Below: *Self-Portrait of Mona Lisa Doing Yoga*; Art and excerpt exhibition, also printed in the exhibit's catalogue.



Art Speak: **FACTS & HOPE**

by Dan Fontes

Artist & Member, Board of Directors

In Norse mythology, Valhalla was the land where the heroes, slain in battle, feasted each night with Odin. The heroes rode out each morning and fought one another until they were cut to pieces; they recovered from their wounds each evening.

I relate the life of an artist to this myth. We live in a corporate culture that attempts to dominate what we eat, what we wear, what we think, read, and if they get their way... what and when we express ourselves. And despite this certain "death", we arise each day, recovered to some degree from the previous day's battle wounds ready to take on the fight again. We know we are not welcomed in this world doing these activities; we do it anyway.

When it comes to Local support of the arts the answer is clear: today it's even worse. Not only has the staff of Oakland's Crafts and Cultural Arts Department been reduced (down from 22.5 employees to 5.5) to an overworked core of diehard arts administrators... now you've got a Cultural Affairs Commission that struggles to establish quorum. If you think Oakland has an "Arts Mayor," you are wrong. They're record wasn't any better last year. I asked our Mayor "Are you concerned about any of this? At some point doesn't it amount to negligence?" There was no response.

What does all this mean to you as an artist? If you are waiting for the cavalry, think again. If you are seeking funding from Oakland I suggest you have a backup plan.

Foundation funding is bleak. Corporate sponsorships equal strings. The answer has always been clear, artists must do for themselves or it won't get done. Build their own spaces, administer their own businesses, diversify their art skills, write their own grants, nurse awkward client/support funding relationships and find new ways to hang on. The irony

"Art Speak" is a new addition to Pro Arts' quarterly newsletter, and features immediate concerns, observations, and perspectives on the local art scene, written by a local artist. Send submissions to: svea@proartsgallery.org or mail to 461 Ninth Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

Pro Arts' Volunteers and others we'd like to thank

Bill Bardeen • Jasmine Baxter • Dan Ben Lau • Iran Carranza • Fulani Carter • Niki Chernin • Alma Draper • Carlos Figueroa • Lois Fischer • Doron Fishman • Raleigh Freeman • Chandra Garsson • Yanna Goldfine • Shirley Hamburg • Susan Harvest • Denise Kaplan • Harriet Kasdan • Karen Legault • Cynthia Leung • Kristina Lova-Hermann • Marilyn Mackey • Cassidy Maione • Peter Martinez • Donna Mae Montgomery • Kylin O'Brien • Rita Piloni • Deanne Quencel • Joyce Shon • Lisa Starr •

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becomes palpable in retrospect...how good we had it in the pre-Shrub years (which hedge you might ask Papa or baby Bush?).

That's not the spirit here at Pro Arts. This is more of a collective. A co-operative. I see this as the possibility of a "non-union-union of voices" rising above the petty selfishness, the political infighting, back-stabbing, squabbling and slander.

Over the past three decades, Pro Arts has stood firm in its resolve to provide a place for artists to have their say. We've weathered the test of time. Pro Arts leads the Bay Area on many fronts by taking on controversial subject matter such as war, sexual abuse, issues concerning discrimination all in a first class venue, thus allowing otherwise quiet voices to lead.

Yes, local grants, foundation support, individual sponsors all fly down a watery vortex to God knows where (anyone been out to Ruby Hills in Livermore lately? Quite a bit of money seems to have gone into those endless multi-million dollar tract homes). All the time, the artist within knows we all must collectively hang on to this thing we call our art.

On a recent trip to the Liminal Gallery space I enjoyed the works of public artists without permission...the Urbanology show. On last weekends visit to the Crucible's Open House people watched art being made firsthand. I say: Bravo to our sister spaces and good job to the artists showing!

Our upcoming East Bay Open Studios is another perfect opportunity to stand alongside artists. I urge you to volunteer for something that moves you. I urge you to connect. I urge you to look at what's going on here at Pro Arts and ask what is needed? I urge you to make suggestions, and when possible, lead other artists. Together we go to our own personal Valhalla!

News From the Board: Celebrating Pro Arts' 30th Anniversary! by Ortrun Niesar, Development Chair, Board of Directors

The year 2004 marks the 30th anniversary of Pro Arts! This is cause for real celebration. Funding has not always been great but we have persevered and built a truly remarkable history in the process. An outside observer recently asked how do we manage to do so much at a professional level with so little? The answer is simple. It is because Pro Arts inspires the love and dedication of so many member volunteers and supporters. It also speaks to our ingenuity, creativity and relentless drive toward excellence at every level. The future of Pro Arts will probably have to depend largely on these same traits, perhaps even more than in the past, as our economy continues to sputter. But we will hardly consider this to be a deterrent. With our current very active and productive board, our new *Interim Executive Director* Margo Dunlap, *Exhibition & Program Director* Svea Lin Vezzone and staff we are headed for an exciting future!

In the next several months we are looking for Pro Arts happenings and events that we believe will knock the socks off even the biggest skeptics.

By far the biggest step will be a move to a new location. The Board is in final negotiation to relocate Pro Arts. Imagine a new, more flexible exhibition space with real daylight and office space and walk-by traffic that will give your work greater public exposure. Pro Arts plans to expand gallery sales, initiate new workshops,

outreach projects and create new venues to serve an even wider group of artistic disciplines.

The move coupled with the 30th anniversary will be the catalyst behind a series of celebratory events that will take place throughout the year, including a very special EBOS season and a spring gala fundraiser, May 1, 2004. Of course, we plan to make the most of this unique opportunity to build a donor support base for Pro Arts and to reposition Pro Arts in the public eye. Best of all, we believe that we will be able to greatly expand our services to all of you. These will be exciting times! Be watching for bulletins to be published on our web site.



CAN WE COUNT ON YOU? WE NEED:

- Members to serve on the Board of Directors, an artist advisory board and other special committees
- Events and program committee members to celebrate Pro Arts' 30th Anniversary.
- Volunteers to help us move!
- Stories of artists and supporters from Pro Arts' past.

We look forward to having you join us. Please e-mail svea@proartsgallery.org as soon as possible. We must finalize our plans by the end of January!

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PRO ARTS CALENDAR

Also at

www.proartsgallery.org



january

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1 PM

Artist Talks
ried Annual 2003-04 exhibition. Details page 1.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 7 PM

Sharing Space Workshop
or East Bay Open Studios 2004 participants only. Details page 1.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 7:30 PM

Tea Party Magazine Literary Series
Celebrate our premiere event with devorah major and Opal Palmer Adisa's performance duo Daughters of Yam. "They continue in the tradition of the African Griot," performing "poetry which is cultural, social and political centering on the reality of being of African descent, women, mothers, lovers, human beings in today's world." \$5-\$10. Details page 6.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, Noon

Open Slide Photography Workshop
A great opportunity for EBOS'04 artists! Details page 1.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 5 PM

ried Annual 2003-04 Exhibition closes.



february

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 9 AM

The Quarterly at Latham Square
Latham Square Associates and Pro Arts are pleased to present the paintings of **Susan Matthews**: February 5 through April 22, 2004. Latham Square Office Building, at 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland; M-F, 9-5 PM. Call 510/763-4361 or information on artist and sales. Curated by Svea Lin Vezzone.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 8 PM

Lyrical Mayhem
First Fridays of each month features great Asian American spoken word artists and open mic. Curated by Joshua Wheeler and Jason Bayani. Sign up for open mic starts at 7:30 PM. Sliding \$6-8 at the door.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 5 PM

East Bay Open Studios 2004 Deadline for Submissions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 11 AM

Exhibition opens
Insomnia[Awakening] opens to the public, page 2.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 6 - 8 PM

Artist Reception
Insomnia[Awakening] exhibition opens with music by Steve Halpern, words by Daphne Muse, Jeanne Powell and featured artist, Chandra Garsson. Details page 2.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 5 - 8 PM

Artists' Reception
Join us Third Thursday, February 19, 5 - 8 PM for *The Quarterly at Latham Square*, with artist Susan Matthews.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7:30 PM

Tea Party Magazine Literary Series
An unforgettable evening of dynamic performances by internationally-known Chicano spoken word artist, educator and novelist Paul Flores; poet, writer and educator Tomás Riley (formerly with San Diego's Taco Shop Poets); and visual artist, writer and cultural worker Jaime Cortez, editor of *Virgins, Guerrillas and Locas: Gay Latinos Writing About Love*. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Page 6 (at right).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 7 PM

An Evening with Ellen Bass and Students
Guest speaker and renowned author of "The Courage to Heal." Sliding \$8-12 at door. Details page 2.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 7 PM

EBOS 101 Workshop
For East Bay Open Studios 2004 participants, details page 1.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 7 PM

Men's Night
In conjunction with *Insomnia[Awakening]*, film viewing of "Last Change for Eden" by Lee Mun Wah and a conversation with Mars & Venus. Details page 2.



march

MONDAY, MARCH 1

EBOS'04 MesArt Virtual Gallery Deadline
Site goes live! Details on-line.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 7 PM

Poetry Reading
Teresa LeYung Ryan, Chokwadi (Moderator), Mark G., and Felicia Thompson, in conjunction with *Insomnia[Awakening]*.
FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 8 PM
Lyrical Mayhem

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 7 PM

Poetry Reading
Insomnia[Awakening] exhibition features poets Claire Ortalda, Adelle Foley, Mary Mackey, and Wendy Williams.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 7 PM

PR 101 Workshop
EBOS'04 artists! Details page 1.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 7 PM

Poetry Reading
Insomnia[Awakening] presents Avotcja (Moderator), John Tnuni, Leslie Simon, Asante George, with violin accompaniment by Gael Alcock. Details page 2.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 7 PM

Tea Party Magazine Literary Series
Settle into an evening of fascinating storytelling with readings by Culebra de Robertis, from her soon to be published novel on 4 generations of Uruguayan women; and recent New College Writing and Consciousness MFA graduate Kathryn Fischer, reading from her book "Good Morning Senor Alfabus." \$5-\$10 sliding scale.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 7 PM

Poetry Reading
With *Insomnia[Awakening]*, Debra Grace Khattab (Moderator), Mary Rudge, Jennifer Stone, Alta, and Shailja Patel. Details page 2.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 5 PM

Insomnia[Awakening] Exhibition closes.

Come Check Out the Tea Party!

This January Tea Party Magazine, one of Pro Arts fiscally-sponsored organizations, will begin hosting a literary series. Come by the gallery every 3rd Friday evening of the month for an in-depth evening with up to three performers. Each reading will feature past, present and future contributors to Tea Party, a progressive and multi-ethnic arts and culture magazine based in Oakland. Curating will be done by Tea Party editorial staff and contributors. Expect the unexpected...you may find spoken word performers, poets, fiction writers or performance artists. Senior Editor Denise Mewbourne has curated the next three months and is honored to present Daughters of Yam with devorah major and Opal Palmer Adisa in January, Paul Flores, Jaime Cortez and Tomas Riley in February, and Culebra De Robertis and Kathryn Fischer in March. And of course, tea will be served! See calendar for details on features.

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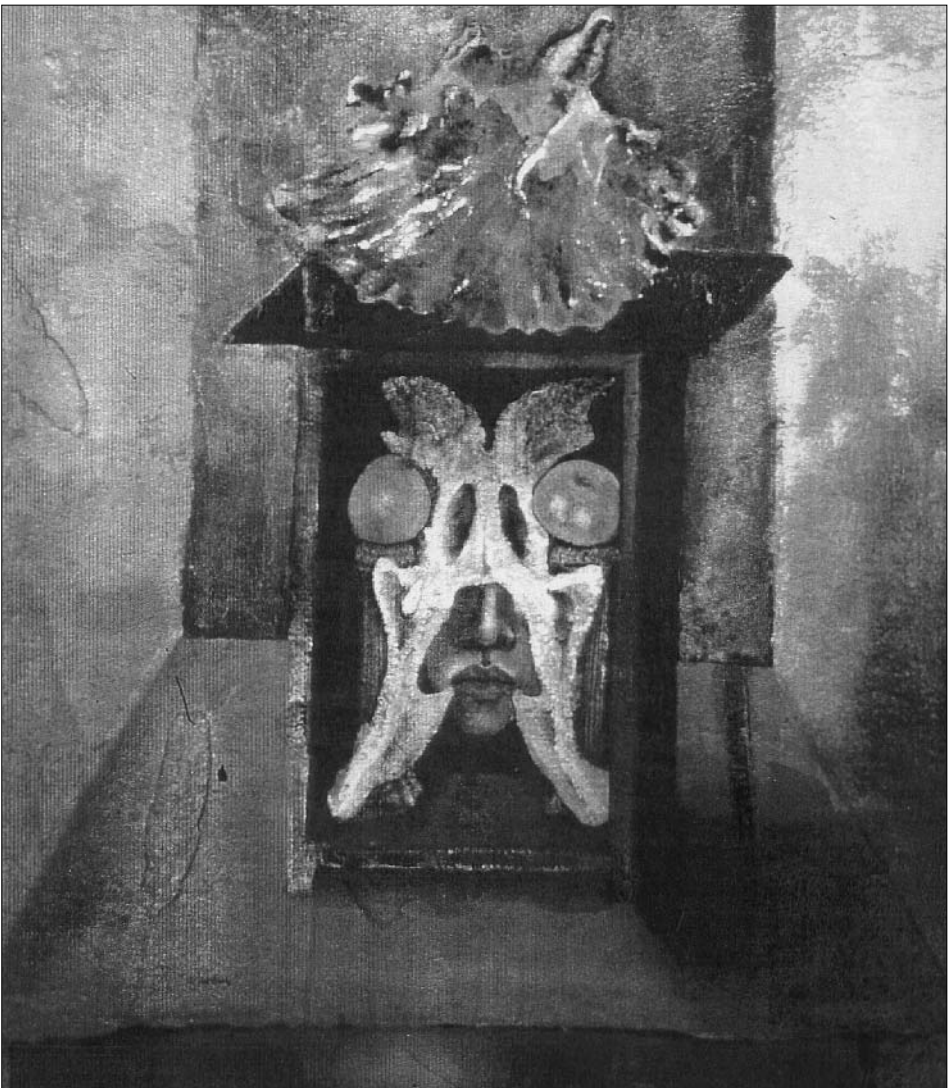




a WORK in PROGRESS

the Pro Arts Quarterly ArtSheet

January•February•March 2004



Detail of Chandra Garsson's work, featured in *Insomnia[Awakening]*, an exhibition at Pro Arts addressing the issues of sexual violence against women. The featured artist's courageous journey of healing is told through this mixed media display of paintings and sculpture, each accompanied by a written account of the artists experience. Catalogs of the exhibit will be for sale. Please see page 2 for details.



www.proartsgallery.org

▶ ART NEWS

↻ RESOURCES

⌚ CALENDAR

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Oakland, CA 94607
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Office 510.763.9425
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info@proartsgallery.org

Founded in 1974 as the Alameda County Neighborhood Arts Program, Pro Arts is a nonprofit, artist-based membership organization serving the Bay Area's diverse cultural communities through exhibitions, workshops and collaborative multidisciplinary programs.

a WORK in PROGRESS is published quarterly, co-produced by Svea Lin Vezzone and Margo Dunlap. Please send submissions to Attr: ArtSheet, 461 Ninth Street, Oakland CA 94607 or to svee@proartsgallery.org. For more information call 510/763-4361.

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Celebrating 30 Years!

Pro Arts is supported by our volunteers, members, the Oakland City Council and by the City of Oakland's Cultural Funding Program, Peter Sullivan and Associates, CAC Real Estate, and the Alameda County Art Commission. Past funders include: The Grousbek Family Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Fund and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the East Bay Community Foundation, the City of Berkeley, the City of Emeryville, the City of Alameda, the San Francisco Foundation, BART, the Port of Oakland and others.