

House Works

SJICA shows that it's a place to make art as well as see art

By HEATHER ZIMMERMAN



Artist Modesto Covarrubias created an edition of prints during his artist residency last year with the SJICA. On May 1 at the ICA's Art House event, he will discuss his unique printmaking process.

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art is keeping it close to home with its latest event, which showcases all that the art space has to offer—in the process transforming an annual “marathon” into a hands-on open house.

The ICA's popular Monotype Marathon fundraiser this year has been folded into a new event, Art House, taking place April 30 and May 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day at the ICA, 560 S. First St., San Jose. The community is invited to check out artist talks and demonstrations, exhibition tours, a print fair and sale, as well as a close-up look at the ICA's printmaking facility and some of the tools of the trade.

The ICA moved to a new space in 2006, which in addition to exhibition areas includes a print center that offers classes open to the community. The existence of the printmaking facility isn't necessarily widely known, which was part of the impetus for the Art House, says the ICA's master printer. Fanny

members are “print nerds,” but print is a key medium for ICA, in part stemming from the organization's Monotype Marathon, in which community members sponsored an artist's participation in a printing workshop in return for the guarantee of netting a print from an auction of pieces created during the “marathon” of workshops. The benefit was held for 16 years, but now the marathon has become “Printapalooza,” two days of print workshops open to the community, which are offered as part of Art House. The workshops, which cost \$250 per person, focus on the monotype, in which a design is inked directly onto a printing plate. Its simple concept makes the monotype suitable for participants whose levels of experience with art may vary widely.

“You don't need to know how to draw or paint; you

just need to be able to make a mark, and we can all make a mark,” Retsek says.

“Print is a technical field, as much as you want it to be, but it's basically an exciting tool for making images in editions or multiples, or you can even just do one-of-a-kind things,” says Susan O'Malley, curator and print center director for the ICA. “The exciting thing about the process is that it surprises you every time. It's a process that can help you think about anything because it's a problem-solving process and we are usually working in community here.” She notes that it's not uncommon for experienced artists and newbies to work alongside each other in the print center.

Visitors not participating in the workshops can still drop in to see the print center in action, watch videos that explain different print processes, as well

as handle the paper, ink, plates and other tools used in the print center. Docents will be on hand to answer questions. Some of the products of the print center—limited edition prints created by artists in residence—will be on display and up for sale. Additionally, two artists who have participated in the residency program will be on hand to discuss their creations and the processes behind them: On May 1, Modesto Covarrubias will talk about prints created during his 2010 residency that were inspired by his sculptural installation that showed in the ICA gallery, and on April 30, Tony May, who had a 40-year retrospective show this winter at the ICA, will discuss his process in creating the ICA print center's first limited edition object: a pinhole lamp.

Other artist talks offered as part of Art House highlight current exhibitions at the art

space. Gail Wight, Christina Seely and Terry Berlier, whose works are showing in the “Size Matters” exhibition, will discuss their work, with Wight speaking on April 30 and Seely and Berlier appearing on May 1. Called “Small Talks,” these discussions reflect the ICA's “Talking Art” artist discussion series.

At a lunchtime talk, Lisa Demetrios, granddaughter of husband-and-wife art and design team Charles and Ray Eames, will discuss their short documentary film *Powers of Ten*, which is showing in the gallery's Cardinale Project Room through June 11.

For visitors who find that experiencing art has worked up an appetite, two food trucks, Louisiana Territory and No Way Jose, will be on site, selling Cajun and Mexican dishes, respectively.

And anyone who's inspired

to bring home some art, some shopping at the p which will highlight the 36 local artists, with 18 artists featured on each c

“I hope that people really excited about the programs we're doing and this is their place, the where they can come to art, see art and really with each other and cor stay involved,” O'Malley. “We're doing a sample of all the programs we would be really exciting would come back to our programs. I hope that they back to openings, first that they come back to things and stay active in programs that we're doi

Art House admission (print workshops and require pre-reg to participate). For information, call 408.283.7142 or visit www.sjica.org.

Lolita Roadtrip

There are few names as loaded with literary baggage

May 1 at the Stage, 490 S. First St., San Jose. Tickets are \$20-\$50. 408.283.7142 or www.san

for dance in its many versions. This year's edition, includes 46 amateur g