

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact Persons:

Connie Tunick, ACCV Public Relations & Co-Curator, ctunick@roadrunner.com

Janet Amiri, Co-Curator, Janart4@Mac.com

Symbols and Words is both the title and a description of the first show of the year at The Galleria at the Hillcrest Center for the Arts. The Arts Council Of the Conejo Valley, "The Voice of the Arts", proudly presents this diverse exhibit, showing original art by fifteen artists. The show will hang in the Galleria at the Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks from January 14 through March 28th, 2010. There will be an Artists' Reception on February 6, 2010, from 4 to 6 pm, and it is open to the public. Co-Curators of the Galleria are Thousand Oaks artists, Janet Amiri and Connie Tunick.

Symbols in art are humans' first form of visual communication. Artists have incorporated symbols into their work since humans first began to paint on cave walls in prehistoric times. Symbols are pictures or images that are used to represent ideas, beliefs, attitudes, or feelings. A symbol has greater significance when its meaning is known by the viewers; however, viewers can appreciate visual images, even without an understanding of the deeper meaning. These symbols, puzzles and riddles enhance the fundamental intention of the artist. Artists incorporate numbers, letters, and actual words to communicate with the viewer. Graffiti is an example of this type of communication.

Included in this exhibit are sculpture, paintings, drawings, and photography. Words and symbols are integrated with the art in many ways. Shredded documents, quotes, musical notes, poetry, vintage dress patterns, dollar bills, and recycled materials, are among the elements used by some of the artists. There are paintings and sculptures with words expressing political and philosophical views and ideals.

Participating in this invitational exhibit are Thousand Oaks artists Susan Lasch Krevitt, Allen Lieberman, Mimi Lieberman, Arlene Mead, Michael Pearce, Peggy Pownall, and Connie Tunick. Newbury Park artists are Geri Gretan, Theodora Ilowitz, and Roland Roy. Also Crystal Michaelson of Agoura Hills, Geri Schonberg of Westlake Village, and Debra Sokolow of Oak Park are in this show. Other participants are Brian Stethem of Filmore and Susan Dobay of Monrovia.

For more information call (805) 381-2747 or visit our website www.conejoarts.org.