

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANTA YSABEL, CA . . .

PETER MITTEN SCULPTURE EXHIBIT AT SANTA YSABEL ART GALLERY

At Santa Ysabel Art Gallery, September 5 through October 25, 2015 will be a one person show featuring the recent sculpture of southern California artist Peter Mitten. Mitten, a noted sculptor and community college art teacher, will exhibit contemporary work in metal, the media that he is usually identified with. Opening Reception for the Peter Mitten exhibit is Saturday, September 5, 4-8 PM. Admission is free. The public is invited.

Peter Mitten has been known as a southern California artist since 1976 when, after receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree from Southern Illinois University, he came to this area to assume a faculty position at Point Loma University. At that time Mitten began to exhibit cast bronze sculptures and participate in building casting facilities for various other artists and institutions, among them James Hubbell and Mesa College. He is best known for his large contemporary outdoor sculptures and the use of cast and welded metals, his materials of choice usually being cast aluminum, iron, and bronze. However, Mitten has also done numerous high profile works in pigmented concrete, such as his

large piece at the Escondido Transit Center, as well as private commissions in granite and clay.

Mitten's work often makes reference to the landscape, especially canyon walls, outcroppings, and flowing water. He says that he feels an affinity in nature for things that are liquid that turn hard but retain their liquid look. He likes the chops in the earth that one sees when construction crews are blasting through a mountain to make a road – the history of all the layers revealed, showing how liquids have come together and made something really beautiful in nature. Mitten says “I don't want to imitate the look of nature, but to accept it as stimulus in terms of color, form, and surface structure – especially structure”. Themes that he has been exploring that will also be in evidence at his Santa Ysabel Art Gallery show are polyhedral constructions and ordinary cardboard boxes and paper sacks. Some of the metal wall pieces in the exhibit have been enhanced with acrylic wash and paint, another earmark that is unique to Peter Mitten.

In addition to Point Loma University, Mitten has also been faculty at Mesa Community College, Grossmont Community College and Palomar Community College. He was one of the 50 featured artists in the now classic 1988 Robert Perine book [San Diego Artists](#). Peter Mitten is currently on the faculty at Mt. San Jacinto Community College and is working on several public art projects at studios in Hemet and in Fallbrook.

Santa Ysabel Art Gallery is located at 30352 Highway 78 at Highway 79 in Santa Ysabel, seven miles below Julian. Admission to the gallery is free. Gallery hours are Thursday through Monday, 11AM - 5 PM, and by appointment. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 760-765-1676.