



# Santa Monica Daily Press

NOT VERY HEALTHY  
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THE DEFENDING THE ENVIRONMENT ISSUE



**TAKING IT IN:** Kyle Hulsagel studies the works of artist Rachael McCampbell during the Santa Monica Airport Art Walk on Saturday.

## Art takes flight at SM Airport

ZBY CHIARA CANZI  
Special to the Daily Press

**SM AIRPORT** The six statutory figures of nude female bodies drawn on the bare wall in black paint with gray underlines, stood 10 feet tall, isolated in a bright corner of the Santa Monica Art Studios.

Satori Yoshimoto wanted to make an impression on people walking by. I wanted women to look at it and feel empowered, something that is hard to do in today's world," said the Korean-born artist. Yoshimoto, a.k.a. Rimi Yang, is just

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## Chiming in

NRDC and other environmental groups call on governor to re-appoint Shriver, Eastwood

BY KEVIN HERRERA  
Editor in Chief

**DOWNTOWN** A national environmental group is calling on the governor to reinstate his brother-in-law, Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver, and actor-director Clint Eastwood to a state parks panel, and for legislators to investigate the role of the panel and whether or not it is truly independent. In a letter signed by Joel Reynolds of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) in Santa Monica, as well as 10 other organizations including Environment California, Surfrider Foundation and the Sierra Club, environmentalists blast the governor for his support of a proposed six-lane toll road through a state park at San Onofre and his decision to not re-appoint Shriver and Eastwood to the California State Park and Recreation Commission. The letter was addressed to State Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, chair of the Senate Committee on Rules, and State Sen. Darrell Steinberg, chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. "With the state parks systems already threatened by budget cuts, park closures, and ever-increasing proposals for development, it is clear that we have reached a critical moment in the history of the parks system that threatens our natural resources heritage," the letter states. "Indeed there are currently no less than 112 proposals for development across 72 of our state parks. It is difficult to recall any time in California's history when our world-class system of parks has been more at risk from a range of threats."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger removed Shriver and Eastwood from the commission last week, saying he wanted some "fresh legs." Shriver and Eastwood were appointed to the commission by former Gov. Gray Davis and re-appointed by Schwarzenegger. A spokesman for the governor said the decision to not re-appoint them had nothing to do with their opposition to the toll road, however, Shriver has said publicly that he believes it was.

Shriver said he didn't think it was necessary for the legislature to conduct an investigation into the governor's decision, but he believed a hearing on the state of public lands is needed given the governor's proposal to close some parks, including Will Rogers and Topanga. Before he was dismissed, Shriver scheduled a public hearing on the proposed closure of those two parks. The hearing is set for April 16 at the Santa Monica Civic Center. "I can't understand it, but if people feel there is something there, and the NRDC is a legendary organization, it's kind of hard to argue against (an investigation)," Shriver said Friday. "I think only good things can come of it, especially if it brings more attention to our park system."

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Local  
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Santa Monica Daily Press  
A newspaper with issues

## Artwalk showcases local artists



**CAPTURED BY THE BEAUTY:** Hank Adams (left) said he was captivated by the work of artist Ellie Riley during the Santa Monica Airport Artwalk on Saturday. Her work is filled with energetic movement, it makes my eyes move," said Adams.



**SHARING WITH THE PUBLIC:** Standing in front of her art, Rachael McCampbell (center) converses with John Stray (left) during the Artwalk on Saturday.



**PUTTING IN THE NECESSARY TIME:** Artist/surfer Gus Harper shares the inspiration behind his work, "Ten Rose Grid" during the Santa Monica Airport Artwalk on Saturday. Harper said that he has been making art in his unique style for the past eight years.

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one of the artists who is showcasing their work at the Second Annual Santa Monica Airport Artwalk.

Set in one of the oldest operating airports in Los Angeles County, the artwalk provided an opportunity for people to view the work of local artists and explore the studios where ideas, dreams and spontaneity meet to create masterpieces.

"This is the birthplace of the DC3 during World War II," said Hans Simmons, Cultural Affairs supervisor for the City of Santa Monica.

After the Douglas Aircraft ceased operating in the city, local artists started renting spaces in leftover hangars. "They are perfect spaces for art with very high ceilings and they were really cheap because nobody wanted them," said Simmons.

The Airport Artwalk is co-sponsored by the City's Cultural Division and the Santa Monica Airport in an effort to showcase the cultural and artistic aspect of the area.

There has been a wave of artists here since the '80s, but nobody knows it's here," said Simmons. "It's been terrific since we opened it up to the public."

Last year more than 4,000 people ventured into the multiple hangars and galleries to feast their eyes on both innovative and traditional art. This year, Simmons expects the same or better turnout.

"We got everything from internationally renowned artists to more amateur painters and there have been a lot of people who have a job and they rent a space here and work," he said.

Although the artwalk was not intended as an art sale, many of the artists made their best work available to potential buyers.

"It's nice to have the opportunity to show your work and to have the option to sell it," said Yang.

Yang's petite size conceals a bursting personality and strong ideas about humanity's purpose on Earth.

"I wanted to celebrate the body of a woman because I feel we need a female-inspired mentality in this world," she said.

Yang was a librarian for most of her life and said her background helped her think of art in a very philosophical way. Yang called the larger than life portraits of female bodies "One Second of Eternity." She wrote a note about what people should feel when looking at it.

"If you forget everything else even in one second, then I think this wall might have given you one second of eternity in your mind and that state could be the ultimate Nirvana. But the question is how to maintain such a state. If you know the answer, please let me know."

Yang's studio is a small, space in the Santa Monica Art Studios. This building was designed and renovated in 2004 as a reusable space. The hangar is currently the refuge and creative home to 29 artists and two of the most innovative art galleries in the city.

The Cultural Affairs Division requires an application process to rent studios at the Santa Monica Airport.

"At the moment, the process is frozen, because there are so many good artists needing a space," Simmons said. "We want them to be affordable for artists in the middle of their career and you have to demonstrate that you are a very professional artist."

Making a living as an artist has its hardships. Rachael McCampbell opened up her studio and put all of her artwork up for sale.

"For this event, there are a lot of people that come through and they want to look at the smaller pieces," she said. "My most expensive piece is about \$8,000 but these prices are low compared to what you'd find in galleries. I lowered all my prices for this event."

McCampbell's paintings exude peace and tranquility. "Life Dance," one of her displayed paintings, depicts two seemingly weightless cranes taking flight. Her soft color palette matches her soft-spoken personality.

"I work in an inventive way and I am more of a process-oriented artist," McCampbell said. "I put paint down and pick up a sander and scrap it all down, and put it down again and pick up other paint and draw and drip and throw until it takes on a life of its own."

A self-described throwback artist, McCampbell gathers her inspiration from her surroundings and paints in an old-fashioned way.

"When I see the paint, I like to touch it, I like to see it," she added.

McCampbell's long-time friend Gus Harper is an internationally renowned artist who works in New York and Santa Monica. At age 5, Harper fell in love with the idea of being an artist. His mother, Fadden Harper is a well-known artist herself. This exposure to art circles influenced him greatly.

"I go for the simple things in life," he said. And his art reflects that. One of his staple techniques is the rose grid, mostly aligned and stacked panels whose contours meet to create torn roses and petals. In his artist statement, Harper stresses the fact that each of his paintings are a reaction to the previous one. In a sense, his art is in continuous motion.

"Bell peppers became mountains, citrus became lava flows," he wrote. "The original subjects were more launching pads for a series of paintings fueled by the simple joy of creating."

Harper creates art to please his senses, he says, but the most humble and meaningful experience is when someone is so taken by his work that they make it part of their life.

"These types of events are a big introduction to the community," said Harper. "New York is the center of the art world, but having been in both I like the vibe here much better. It's more accessible."

Santa Monica resident Camma Barsily walked into the studios with an open mind.

"It's such a wonderful opportunity for the public to see the artist's thought process," she said. "And it's pretty high quality for what I have seen."

"You get to see the art and talk to the artist and I am sure people may even purchase something."

As part of the Airport Artwalk, the Santa Monica College Ceramic and Art Mentor Program showcased the work of aspiring artists. Stephen Price works with paint and paper. The Santa Monica Art Mentor Program is designed for gifted students and provides highly talented aspiring artists the opportunity to work one-on-one with mentors.

"This event really means a lot to me," she said. "I can show people the finished product and develop a good sense of who I am."

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