



HUNTINGTON BEACH ART CENTER
...where art meets community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 26, 2017

**The Huntington Beach Art Center
in collaboration with the Surfing Heritage & Culture Center (SHACC)
present**

***Women of Surfing: Art & History*
July 22 – September 2, 2017**



Joni Sternbach, 15.11.07 #3 *Water Connection*, 2015;
Unique Tintype, 11 x 14 inches. Courtesy of Von Lintel
Gallery.

“The Year of Women in the Arts” is in full swing at the Huntington Beach Art Center (HBAC). 2017 marks a special year, as for the first time in its history, the Art Center is dedicating an entire series of contemporary exhibitions to the recognition of female artistic talent. *Women of Surfing: Art & History* is the second exhibition in this series celebrating women in the arts, delving into the artworks of national and international artists who have an intimate relationship with the ocean and the sport of surfing. Special guests for the opening reception on July 22nd from 6:30 – 9 pm include Mary Lou McGinnis Drummy, 2016’s Women of the

Year in Surf City USA’s Walk of Fame and co-founder of the Women’s International Surfing Association and Gidget (Kathy Kohner-Zuckerman), the inspiration for the fictional character Franzie (nicknamed Gidget) from the 1957 surf novel, *Gidget: The Little Girl with Big Ideas*.

In response to the historical disparity in representation and recognition of women in the arts, HBAC has committed all three of this year’s contemporary exhibitions to providing opportunities for female artists to display their works. *Women of Surfing: Art & History* is set to coincide with the US Open of Surfing, and will bring our city’s favorite pastime from the beach into our galleries. It will invite guests to contemplate artistic representations of the ocean and the sport of surfing by those who are keenly familiar with them.

Partnering with the Surfing Heritage & Culture Center (SHACC) in San Clemente, CA, *Women of Surfing: Art & History* will also feature historic surfing paraphernalia. These artifacts such as surfboards and photographs, graciously on loan from SHACC, will convey the rich history of surfing. The juxtaposition of these objects with their contemporary counterparts opens up diverse dialogues regarding the history of

this sport and pastime, and pays tribute to the triumphs of women in the surf industry. It has only been in recent years that there has been significant progress towards equal recognition between genders in competitive surfing, and through this exhibition, HBAC celebrates those who have paved the way.

Kate Hoffman, Director of the Huntington Beach Art Center states that, "As we continue in our series of 'Women in the Arts,' we chose to celebrate the art of surfing from the perspective of women in the field. From world champion athletes who also find creativity that flows from their relationship to the ocean, to those women who founded major movements on behalf of female surfers, and those who have documented the history and growth of the sport, this exhibition presents both an aesthetically beautiful and historically significant look at the world of women in surfing." *Women of Surfing: Art & History* curator, Phil Roberts, also emphasizes the unique narratives the featured artists are able to convey, saying that: "Mother Earth is a common reference to our planet. This personification throughout mythologies, religions, tribes, and human history, makes a connection between our planet and the feminine form. Honoring this way of viewing the world, this exhibition explores the intimate relationship that these artists have with the ocean through the creative lens of women who have spent their lives in the waves."

There is a direct and immediate connection that is felt when one speaks of surfing in Huntington Beach. Aptly named "Surf City USA," the city is no stranger to surf culture, and celebrates its own special history with surfing. Occurring in Surf City USA during the US Open of Surfing, the location and timing of this exhibition could not be more fitting. *Women of Surfing: Art & History* will showcase women who have not only a shared experience and universal language commenting and documenting the ocean and surf culture, but who also have unique talents and methods in presenting their perspectives.

The Huntington Beach Art Center is a community arts and cultural center serving Huntington Beach and the Southern California region. The Center presents the works of artists producing in all mediums, techniques, and genres. Through exhibitions, performances, film/video screenings, lectures and educational programming, HBAC serves to advance public awareness and understanding of cultural, historic, and contemporary perspectives. HBAC creates opportunities for local, regional and national artists, and the community, to share in a climate of experimentation, education and experience.

The Huntington Beach Art Center is a public/private partnership between the City of Huntington Beach and the Huntington Beach Art Center Foundation. During its 20 years of operation, the Art Center has achieved a regional and national reputation for featuring the work of emerging artists from all backgrounds and viewpoints. For more information call (714) 374-1650.



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Related Exhibition Events:

Public Reception: July 22 | 6:30 – 9 pm

The Huntington Beach Art Center is celebrating women in the arts with three exhibitions that showcase locally, nationally, and internationally recognized female artists. *Women of Surfing: Art & History* is the second exhibition in a series celebrating women in the arts, delving into artworks by national and international artists who have an intimate relationship with the ocean and the sport of surfing. Entertainment will be provided by singer/songwriter Jamisen Jarvis. Free event with catering and cash bar.

Art for Lunch: August 3 | 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Art for Lunch is a free event, open to the community. Patrons can enjoy their lunch in the galleries while enjoying the current exhibition *Women of Surfing: Art & History*. Complimentary drinks and desserts will be provided.

Good Vibrations Celebration Fundraiser: August 12 | 7 – 10 pm

Join the Huntington Beach Art Center as it celebrates the rich history of surfing in “Surf City USA” with its “Good Vibrations Celebration” fundraiser. This event supports the important exhibitions and education programs that HBAC showcases each year and will feature live music from a Beach Boys tribute band. Full catering and a cash bar will be provided. The fundraiser also acts as an opportunity for HBAC to honor the artists of *Women of Surfing: Art & History*: the second exhibition in a series celebrating women in the arts delving into artworks by national and international artists who have an intimate relationship with the ocean and the sport of surfing. Tickets can be purchase by calling (714) 374-1650.

Special Presentation by Rika Traxler & James Finch: Designers for the Movie *Moana*: August 26 | 1 – 4 pm

Join the Huntington Beach Art Center for a special presentation by creative consultants from the movie *Moana*: Tahitian Costume Designer, Rika Traxler, and Graphic Designer, James Finch. See some of the costumes used for film illustrations, and hear both designers in conversation regarding the production of the movie. Limited Seating. Please RSVP by calling (714) 374-1650. Family friendly and free event.

Huntington Beach Art Center Information

Gallery Hours

T-Th: 12 – 8 pm | Fr: 12 – 6 pm | Sat: 12 – 5 pm
Closed Sun, Mon & most holidays.

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