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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Two Striking Exhibits Highlight Fall Semester at SMC's Museum of Art By A.K. Carroll



Eric Almanza

rt has the power to amuse, Aanger, intrigue and inspire. It can bind a community together or divide it in two, serve as a catalyst for conversation or the impetus of a movement. Exhibitions don't make One, It Happens to All" it into galleries simply by chance, but through careful curation and ar- and Sherri Cornett, that larger topic duous selection.

This fall the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art — a local gem It Happens to All," raises the questucked in the back of SMC's campus — will simultaneously house two professionally-curated exhibitions, "The American Soldier" Justice: It Happens to One, It Happens to All" (open through Dec. edies around us and in the larger 11), both of which were selected with a nod toward the upcoming election. The exhibitions will kick off on Sunday, Sept. 18 with an nities for reflection, dialog, connecopening reception (see sidebar). Other curators and artists will also be present.

Tynes, gallery manager at SMC, kindergarten, Gutfreund and Corthe curatorial committee looks for nett started brainstorming around exhibitions that are, "interesting, artistic reactions to current social, timely, and appropriate for the economic and political issues. campus and community." Tynes Tynes reached out to them with a believes that these two exhibitions proposition for an exhibition, and will appeal as much to the local the women sent out national call for community as they will to the col- artwork. Two years later, the exhilege campus. Both have the capac- bition is debuting. ity to reframe common perceptions and serve as conversational cata- 43 installed pieces and a looped lysts.

viewer," said Tynes. "(It) evokes mographic of artists with diverse

empathy or causes an impetus for change. Each piece stands on its own, and, viewed in their entirety, they speak to the (larger) topic." "Social Justice: It Happens to

Photo provided

For curators Karen Gutfreund is social justice. Their exhibition, "Social Justice: It Happens to One, tion of how we create a more just and free world for ourselves and future generations.

"Art and museum galleries give (open through Dec. 18) and "Social us a permissible venue in which to process and meditate on the tragworld," the curators write in their catalog. They wanted to create an exhibit that would present opportution and community engagement.

Following the incarceration of a Connecticut woman who had en-According to Kyla Porter rolled her son in an out-of-district

The show, which consists of slideshow of an additional 46 "The art really speaks to the works, was created by a broad de-

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announce a new

backgrounds. The topics of the exhibition range from abuse, to education access, to race, immigration and homelessness.

"It's a lot to absorb," said Cornett, "Which is part of why it's up for three months."

As a special kick-off to the exhibition, over 15 of the artists will join a panel discussion on art and social justice from 2-2:45 p.m. on Sept. 18, prior to the opening reception in SMC's Soda Center. The discussion will include a video.

"It's going to be really powerful to have those artists in the room, answering questions of why they do what they do and how they go into social justice work," said Cornett.

"The American Soldier"

Tony- and Emmy-award winning curator, director, writer and producer Cyma Rubin, curator and producer of "The American Soldier," will also speak at the reception. An exhibition of 116 photographs that covers nine wars from the Civil War to Iraq, "The American Soldier" is both a visual progression and a tribute to US military

The exhibition has been viewed by over a million people during its installations in presidential libraries, universities, museums and history centers.

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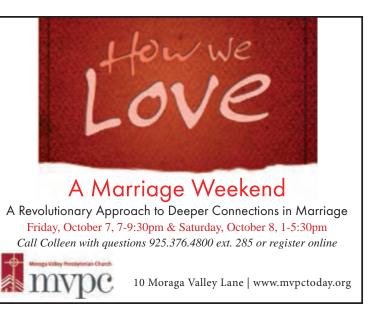
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Opening Receptions

Visit "The American Soldier" and "Social Justice: It Happens to One, It Happens to All" at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. Exhibits open at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 18. The opening reception for "Social Justice" will be from 1:15-2 p.m. with a conversation with the artists. The opening reception for "The American Soldier" will be at 2 p.m. with a lecture by producer and curator Cyma Rubin. The museum is located at 1928 St. Mary's Rd. in Moraga and is open from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Admission is \$5 for all adults. Youth (K-12), military veterans, and SMC faculty, staff and students are free. For more information, visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/ saint-marys-college-museum-of-art/come-visit.

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Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-9pm • Sat 8am-7pm • Sun 8am-7pm