

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AIRPORT ART EXHIBITION FEATURES THE STUDIO
WORK OF SACRAMENTO PUBLIC ARTISTS**

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WHAT: Airport Art Exhibition Features the Studio Work of Sacramento
Public Artists

WHERE: Sacramento International Airport – Terminal B

WHEN: January 5 – April 11, 2011

Sacramento, CA— *In the Studio: Public Artists in Their Private Spaces* opens at the Sacramento International Airport Art Gallery on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. The exhibition can be seen in 10 display cases throughout Terminal B (6 of which are restricted to ticketed passengers).

The exhibition features the studio artwork of some of the area's most well-known public artists, including Suzanne Adan, Gerald Heffernon, Kurt Steger, Willem de Groot, Jack Nielsen, Michael Stevens and Richard Feese.

The exhibition includes sculpture in a variety of media, as well as scratchboard and oil painting.

For these artists the art practice begins in the studio—inspiration and solitude affording them the opportunity to create more personal work. This personal work informs their public work—although, in varying degrees. In the case of artist Gerald Heffernon, his studio work is whimsical, but can afford to also be a bit dark. His materials are less durable than what's necessary in public art, allowing for a different sort of artistic freedom. This is evident in "Cabbit", where Heffernon focuses on cloning genetic selection—a mixture of a cat and a rabbit made startingly real by his imagination and skill as a sculptor. Still whimsical, however made for a broader audience, is his perhaps most beloved public artwork, a bronze sculpture titled, "Rabbits Reading", located in Sacramento's Shasta Park. This highly visible work has elements of traditional fable offered with a modern twist. The rabbits and their clothes look rather antique. Two rabbits read, one from a book, the other from a laptop computer. The

juxtaposition of the laptop creates a sort of jump in history. His intention is to show the viewer how the technology of reading and writing has evolved.

The gap from studio to public artwork is less pronounced in the case of artist Kurt Steger's work. A product of his studio practice, "Winter Circle", closely resembles processes evident in his public artwork, such as "Reflection", a *functional environment* located in Sacramento City Hall's front lobby. Both works employ durable, industrial materials, yet are organic and earthy aesthetically. The scale is the indicator here of studio vs. public work and demonstrates that Steger is working out ideas in his studio that often evolve into larger public projects.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission is devoted to supporting, promoting and advocating for the arts in the region. For further information on programs and opportunities through the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission go to: www.sacmetroarts.org. SMAC is funded by the City and County of Sacramento.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW: Lorrie Kempf, Art in Public Places Program Assistant. Please contact Roberta McClellan at (916) 595-9800, e-mail: robertaamcclellan@comcast.net to schedule interviews.
