



## News Release

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### **San Diego Art Institute Announces Re-Opening Plan**

Following a two-month reassessment of its mission, operations and structure, the board of directors of the San Diego Art Institute (SDAI) has announced that it is financially and operationally ready to reopen its gallery space in Balboa Park before the end of the year. Initially, the museum will be open for a few days per week by appointment. SDAI will be following health and safety guidelines from county and state government officials.

SDAI's "Illumination" exhibition, showcasing 21<sup>st</sup> century interactions with art, science and technology, which debuted in February 2020 and had to close abruptly in March, will be on view. Reservations will soon be available on SDAI's website, [sandiego-art.org](http://sandiego-art.org).

"The board has developed a productive and financially sound plan to re-open the gallery with approved safety measures in place," said Karen Gilbert, board chair. Additionally, SDAI has upgraded its HVAC system, in coordination with the remodel of the adjacent Mingei Museum.

"We are fully invested in our mission to advance regional contemporary art and artists while fostering cultural equity," Gilbert said. "Our two-month 'reset' has been very

instructive and productive. We've come out of this period of self-examination stronger and more financially resilient."

Gilbert also announced that Sarah Trujillo-Porter has been retained as operations manager to guide the reopening and administer SDAI's online programming. In April SDAI instituted RAM (Regional Artists Market), a curated online market featuring functional items, such as masks, scarves, bags, cards, prints and apparel. By offering the participating artists 70 percent of each sale, RAM has been very successful at building economic resiliency among the regional artist community.

SDAI's major fundraiser of the year, the C-Note Pop-Up Art Sale, which is usually held in November, has been postponed to the first quarter of 2021.

"We're hoping that C-Note, a juried exhibition of original works by emerging regional artists priced at \$100, \$200 and \$300, will be an in-person event with appropriate health and safety protocols," said Gilbert, "but we are planning for every possibility, including hosting a hybrid event with in-person and online participation."

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#### **ABOUT SAN DIEGO ART INSTITUTE**

The San Diego Art Institute (SDAI) is a contemporary art center, with the only exhibition space in Balboa Park fully dedicated to contemporary art by Southern California and Northern Baja artists. Founded in 1941, SDAI offers high quality, interactive programming, educational initiatives, and exhibitions. SDAI promotes cultural equity and artistic enrichment within our community and enables diverse audiences to interact with art in meaningful ways. [sandiego-art.org](http://sandiego-art.org).