

MEDIA RELEASE

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**New Gallery Adds to Growing
Creative Community at NTC Promenade
Swift Gallery Grand Opening Set for February 5, 2010**

Inaugural Exhibit, February 5 - April 2, 2010

*"The Garden of Mythos:
Abstraction in Collaboration with Nature"
Recent oils by Anna Zappoli*

Friday, February 5, 6pm – Swift Gallery Dedication and Public Opening
Friday, February 5, 5-9pm – NTC Friday Night Liberty Open House

January 4, 2010- San Diego – **NTC Promenade** will soon add a new visual arts gallery to its growing arts and culture district, located at the former Naval Training Center in Point Loma. The establishment of the new **Martha Pace Swift Gallery at NTC** was announced by Alan Ziter, Executive Director of the NTC Foundation, the organization that oversees the development of this new "creative community" for San Diego.

The grand opening dedication of the Swift Gallery is set for **Friday, February 5, 6pm**, during the monthly **NTC Friday Night Liberty** Open House. The exhibit continues through **April 2, 2010**.

"We are the grateful recipients of a generous sustaining gift from Gabriella Stephanie Swift, in honor of her mother. This provides the resources to allow us to provide another quality cultural experience for the people of San Diego," explained Ziter. "Gabriella has been a long-time supporter of the Expressive Arts Institute - a founding NTC resident group with a mission to use the arts for change, growth, healing and learning. The Swift Gallery will provide another venue to share an artistic perspective and foster new dialogue."

"Both my mother and I have shared a love of beauty and she always surrounded herself with beautiful things in her home," explained Swift. "I am thrilled to establish a tribute to her and honor her dedication to the community. I want to encourage the creative process in San Diego and the connection to the Expressive Arts Institute provides an opportunity to support and promote the value of the arts as way to heal and express oneself," she added. "My vision is a gallery that captures the humanity of the arts and blends it with the mission of expressive arts therapy."

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Swift Gallery at NTC

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The Swift Gallery, presented and curated by the Expressive Arts Institute (EAI), will mount four to five high quality exhibits of visual art annually, with a focus on San Diego and emerging California artists, but with an open call-for-submission process to allow for national and international perspectives. “The majority of shows will focus on individual artists to offer in-depth perspective of a single artist. These exhibits will vary widely in both style and substance; however, they are to be unified by an aesthetic and thematic structure reflective of the mission of the Expressive Arts Institute,” explained Wes Chester, curator and Assistant Director of EAI.

The inaugural exhibit will feature the large scale oil on canvas work of San Diego artist **Anna Zappoli**. Zappoli, originally from Italy, has been in the U.S. since 1966 and has exhibited locally at the San Diego Art Institute several times since 1989. In reflecting on the exhibit, Zappoli noted, “We all long to be in contact with the natural world. This is what I explore and express in my art.”

The gallery is designed as a “public space gallery” that is accessible and “part of the fabric” of a visit to NTC. It is not separated from common areas by doors or borders and is designed to inspire communication and conversation. Art will be displayed in the main foyer of Building 201, formerly a Navy administration building built in 1941 that features an expansive exhibit space and stairwell designed in the Art Moderne style of architecture. With high walls and lots of **natural** light, it is an ideal setting to exhibit large format art and will be fit with high quality gallery system lighting. The gallery will share the building with ARTS: A Reason to Survive, KIT-Kids **Included** Together, the Jenna Druck Foundation and Solare Ristorante.

The Swift Gallery will be the 6th visual arts space to open at NTC, adding to the vibrancy and appeal of the project. The grand opening coincides with the newly launched Friday Night Liberty, a monthly open house to showcase the museums, galleries, arts and design studios, dance companies and other innovative organizations that call NTC Promenade home.

NTC Foundation was established by the City of San Diego to enrich the lives of San Diegans by renovating 26 historic buildings on 28 acres at the former Naval Training Center to create, facilitate and operate a broad-based complex focused on experiencing the arts, culture, and creativity that are the hallmark of the San Diego region.

NTC Promenade is San Diego’s new arts and culture district located at the former Naval Training Center. With 7 of its 26 historic buildings complete, NTC Promenade is home to over 40 museums and galleries, artist and design studios, dance companies, educational groups, multidisciplinary arts and other organizations that showcase San Diego’s creative community and provide innovative experiences in the arts to the public.

Expressive Arts Institute focuses on shared art-making to form a learning community deeply rooted in the body, senses and imagination. Students become disciplined in phenomenology: the practice of paying attention to what is present and authentic. The Institute provides a safe, challenging and nurturing atmosphere for personal and professional growth.