

TO: Newport Beach City Arts Commission

FROM: Library Services Department
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TITLE: Cultural Arts Activities for November 2015

American Alchemy: An Artist's Reception was held for Joe Lewis on Saturday, November 21. Joe Lewis is a nationally known artist, arts administrator, educator, and professor of Art at the University of California, Irvine.

Mr. Lewis talked about his work and methods, and took questions from the audience. His exhibition, *American Alchemy*, has generated many positive comments and has proved to be a thought provoking and engaging display.

American Alchemy uses cultural iconography and historical moments: the eagle, the flag, oil rigs, documents, etc., as springboards for the audience to reinvestigate their personal relationships with the American historical experience. The work commemorates the environment, our political system, and occasionally takes a whimsical view of our foibles.



Upcoming exhibitions at Central Library include:

- December 2015: Charlotte Lerner
- January 2016: Judit Laufer (sculpture)
- February/March 2016: Joan Irving Brandt
- April 2016: Eva Malhotra
- May 2016: Bea Riley
- June 2016/July 2016: Salli Hosseini (pending City Arts Commission approval)
- August 2016/September 2016: Fernando Del Rosario (pending City Arts Commission approval)

Arts Manager – Request for Qualifications (RFQ): The RFQ for this position closed on November 13. There are a number of qualified bidders. An interview panel is being formed and interviews should be conducted later this month.

Students from the University of Guadalajara: On November 10thm a contingent of 12 students from the University of Guadalajara toured the Central Library, Civic Center, and Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park with Chair Greer and the Library Services Director. The students, who are enrolled in a governmental administration program, enjoyed these public amenities as well as our City's scenic beauty and favorable climate.