



Press Release: For Immediate Release



MARK SIPRUT MARCH 11 - APRIL 22, 2023

The Bonita Museum & Cultural Center is excited to present a new exhibition ***Mark Siprut, Photographic Portraits of Bonita*** by SDSU professor and Bonita resident Mark Siprut. The exhibition will run from March 11 - April 22, 2023. The exhibition opens March 11 with a Chamber Concert with the *Bonita Quartet* from 2pm - 4pm and a public reception from 4:30pm - 6:30pm. An artist walk-through of the exhibition will happen on Sat. April 8 from 3pm - 4pm.

This original exhibition of digital photography with historical context, explores Bonita and Sweetwater Valley landscape, landmarks and architecture. For the exhibition Mark has been hiking the Sweetwater Valley area in South Bay San Diego documenting the area utilizing aerial drone photography creating 360 degree panoramic views. He has been working with the collection of the Bonita Historical Society to include information about local historic homes, including the 1908 Irving J. Gill & Frank Mead "Allen House", the "Otay Limited" National City & Otay railway, as well as early pioneer maps and historical objects inviting the public to discover the evolution of the local landscape of natural geography juxtaposed with architectural and commercial development.



Mark Siprut *Bonita Road*

Mark's contemporary artworks reflect a collective memory and documentation of this region. Along with historical photographs, maps and artifacts, they tell the story of Bonita and Sweetwater Valley history past and present. Mark's artistic journey emerged as he walked, biked and drove around his native Bonita neighborhoods. He has enjoyed living in Bonita for the last 25 years and in that short time span has witnessed development of construction and landscaping projects. In his research for this exhibit he has become aware of the natural geography and foliage attempting to retake the landscape and keep the ecosystem balanced.



Picture of the Allen House from 1908. The house is known as one of the first concrete "modern" houses in San Diego.

Photo from the Mary Ward Collection

About Mark Sipur

Mark Sipur is an educator, artist and designer. In addition to his formal studies in photography and printmaking, his current creative research is in time-base, interactive and electronic media. His work has been exhibited locally and internationally. He promotes collaborative, interdisciplinary, and intercultural applications to visual communication. Sipur is the author of the Adobe Photoshop Handbook v3, published by Random House and therefore is proficient in its use. In 1995-96 he was a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Graphic Design at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey and in 2003 and 2006 he taught at Anadolu University in Eskisehir, Turkey. Having an attachment to Turkey, he is greatly saddened by the tragic consequences of the recent earthquakes.

He is an Associate Professor in Multimedia in the School of Art and Design at San Diego State University (SDSU). He earned his BA and MA in Art at Humboldt State University and his MFA in Art at University of California, Santa Barbara.

The first **Chamber Concert** of the year includes a performance by the **Bonita Quartet** March 11 from 2 – 4PM

featuring: Ronald Goldman, violin; Julie Park, violin; Melissa Chu, cello; Adam Birnbaum, viola.

More information about the exhibition and to RSVP for the concert please see: <https://bonitahistoricalociety.org/mark-siprut-photographic-portraits-of-bonita/>



The Bonita Museum & Cultural Center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Information about the exhibition and programming can be found on the website www.bonitahistoricalociety.org. The museum is located at 4355 Bonita Road, Bonita California. Exhibitions are free and open to the public.



Mark Siprut *Sunset Course*

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For photos or more information about artists in the exhibition:

Museum:

Wendy Wilson-Gibson, directorbmcc@gmail.com
619 267-5141

Artist:

Mark Siprut, msiprut@sdsu.edu
619 869-6183

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