



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2010

**IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT,
EXHIBITION FEATURES ARTWORK BY DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED ARTISTS**

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- WHAT:** Art from the Heart: Selected works by Artists from Reach In and the three Short Centers of the Developmental Disabilities Service Organization
- WHERE:** SMUD, 6301 S Street (near 65th Street), Sacramento, CA
- WHEN:** October 4 – November 30, 2010
- RECEPTION: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2010, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Gallery hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Cost: Free

Sacramento, CA— *Art from the Heart* opens at the SMUD Art Gallery, 6301 S Street, Sacramento on Monday, October 4, 2010. The public is invited to meet the artists at a FREE reception on Friday, October 22, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The exhibition features paintings and drawings by 25 Sacramento Area Artists from the Developmental Disabilities Service Organization (DDSO), in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Though the exhibited subject matter is varied, all of the artwork shares in a bold use of color and gestural lines. The featured artists express themselves freely and are not limited by tradition.

Many of the exhibiting artists enjoy extensive arts resumes and have exhibited locally at the Crocker Art Museum, the State Capital, the California State Fair, and the Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento, as well as National Venues such as the American Visionary Gallery in Baltimore, the Outsider Art Fair in New York City, and the Ames Gallery in Berkeley.

DDSO is a nationally known non-profit organization which serves adults with developmental disabilities through the arts. Since its inception in 1976, DDSO's mission has been to improve the quality of life for adults with developmental disabilities by creating options which foster individual growth. DDSO also promotes access for persons with developmental disabilities into significant places of community interaction; in the cultural sphere these include theatres, classrooms, galleries, and public art spaces.

The mission of DDSO's outreach programs is to integrate artists with developmental disabilities into the cultural life of the community.

DDSO maintains three arts centers: Short Center North, Short Center South, and Alan Short Center, which provide art training to adults with mild/moderate disabilities in the greater Sacramento and Stockton areas. Additionally, DDSO facilitates a special project called Reach In, which partners professional visual artists with adults with severe/profound disabilities.

The Art in Public Places Program was established by the City and County of Sacramento to provide visual art experiences in public locations through a percent-for-art program which reserves a portion of construction dollars from City, County or Redevelopment projects for public art.

The SMUD Art Gallery is a partnership between the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission with additional funding from the City and County of Sacramento.

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.