

Behind the Scenes in San Leandro

Young adult photographers share
their views of downtown San Leandro

Exhibit:

August 25 – September 14, 2008

San Leandro Main Library

300 Estudillo Avenue, San Leandro, CA, 94577

www.sanleandrolibrary.org

510/577.3971

More photos from **Behind the Scenes in San Leandro**
can be viewed at this web site:

www.flickr.com/photos/behindthescenesinsanleandro

Curatorial Statement for Behind the Scenes in San Leandro

Throughout history there have always been those of us not very interested in the world around us. We go through life completely unaware of the magic it has to offer. It wouldn't take much, just a small turn of the head, to see some of the marvelous things the earth possesses. Now, even turning your head won't be necessary. We are providing you with some of the small and unseen wonders of San Leandro.

In this program each of us has embarked on our own personal journey. While on this journey we walked through some of the historic areas of our city, like the Casa Peralta on W. Estudillo Ave. We ventured to many hidden locations, such as San Leandro Creek and Callan Street. Most of us learned something new, and even began to look at our surroundings in a new light. The diversity of the photographers provides you, the spectators, with multiple pieces of sensational art to appreciate. While making our way through this remarkable journey, we've encountered unexpected treasures, which are captured in these photographs.

We thank you for investing your time and truly hope you will enjoy the exhibit.

Belal Aria · Ayanna Brett-Klein · Ernest Theo Cabrezo
Catherine Casuat · Janice Cheung · Arielle Clarke
Austin Clarke · Melody C. Miller · Ismael Muñoz
Andrea Pulliam · Jonathan Schultz · Raymond Wu

Belal Aria

10th Grade

San Leandro High School

The Lone Fountain

The image portrayed in this shot is supposed to give a sort of nostalgic feeling as you can imagine seeing this fountain in the front yard of your childhood home. To add to the nostalgic sense, I took this picture using a sepia tone setting on the camera so that it would give a feeling of going back in time.

1's Address

At first this picture was supposed to be experimental as I was trying out different settings on my camera. But I took a liking to this photo as I began to appreciate the unnoticed details, such as the dirt and scratches on the sign's surface.

Tree Tongue

In this picture, a close up of a piece of tree bark is shown. I took this picture for its resemblance to a chameleon's tongue as it prepares to dine on an unsuspecting fly.

Nature's Tools

Time flies. When it does, time affects everything in its path, such as this shovel that is becoming old and rusty after years of use.

Abandoned Apricot

This picture is odd in many ways. I found the apricot resting on top of a fire hydrant. Seeing it like that, I became inspired to capture it with my camera.

Ayanna Brett-Klein
8th Grade
Bancroft Middle School

Car Warning

The man-made sign lets pedestrians know when a car is coming. It saves the day by warning people to back away.

Hideaway

Nobody knows that it is here, the hideaway. Where people can hide from other people; where people can hide from the world.

Concrete Butterfly

The butterfly has finally freed itself from the dark side. It flies now to the light side, the natural world.

Sandbagged

Sandbags pile up and lead to the forbidden tunnel. Where does the tunnel lead to? Most important of all, will you ever get back?

Through the Looking Glass

You look through the looking glass and you see the berries glittering in the sunlight.

Ernest Theo Cabreza
8th Grade
Bancroft Middle School

Broken Bottle and Broken Glass
Someone is either very angry or very lazy.

The Eye
Wherever you go, they are watching you.

Hydrant
As time goes by, it may grow old and ugly. But someday
it may save your life.

Bell
This photograph makes you think of the past and how
simple things used to be.

Catherine Casuat

10th Grade

San Leandro High School

Longing

As it watches the summer sun set, a single, thin sheet of autumn pines for its own season to come.

Memento

A piece of a faded memory remains to remind the world that it did, and still does, exist.

Determination

Golden leaves fall softly as if carried by angels to rest on steps of a staircase. They hope someday they can fly back to the sky.

Reminisce

The porch reminisces of days long ago, of children flying, just as the petals from the trees fly into its arms. A memory nearly forgotten, but remembered as each lavender petal graces its arms.

Solitude

I've greeted many with my cold, yet relaxing comfort and eased them of their exhaustion. I grant a quiet state of mind to whomever graces me with their presence.

Arielle Clarke

12th Grade

Castro Valley High School

Satiate Your Senses

Two women; two artists. One of these artists makes mosaics, and the other plants seeds. Striving to be the best that they can be, to make their art remarkable. Each woman takes pride in her masterpieces, but their art is celebrated very differently. One woman's art is hung on walls, and is examined with eyes. Pairs and pairs of eyes stare and appreciate her hard work. The other woman's art is consumed, and gives pleasure to the mouth, the tongue. Art, filling our senses.

Concealed Reality

The man lost everything. He lost his job and they took his house. He had no house and his wife left. His wife left and she took the kids. The kids are gone so he drowns his pain in liquor. The liquor is gone so he throws the bottle. He throws the bottle as far as his arm allows, because when he wakes up tomorrow morning he doesn't want the reminder of his failure, his life gone to waste.

As One

A child and a tree; they rely on each other, exchanging breaths one inhalation at a time. Both stand to their fullest height, but neither is trying to surpass the other. Both are innocent and both are doing their best in this world. Neither speaks; they just stand, breathing one another in.

Forgotten but not Gone

A little boy begs his mother and father for weeks and weeks to buy him a tetherball pole. After carefully going over prices, this boy's parents agree to get him one for Christmas. When the boy finds a tetherball pole in his front yard on Christmas morning, he could not be more thrilled. His exhilaration lasts him only so long. The tetherball pole, once the center of his world, now goes unnoticed and untouched.

Lost Potency

Once upon a time there was a ravishing new red and yellow sign. This was a sign placed at the end of a street to stop people from driving into the creek at night. It was bright and effective. Many years have passed since that sign was first put in, and it is still there. Only now, it has lost much of its efficacy and luminosity. All this sign asks for is a bit of attention.

Austin Clarke

10th Grade

San Leandro High School

Tower of Time

This clock symbolizes the longevity of San Leandro culture. Even through difficult times, San Leandro has managed to sustain its beauty and uniqueness. This clock, located in downtown San Leandro, proudly stands tall, flaunting its power over our memories.

Fountain of Youth

This water fountain seems ordinary at first glance. However, taking a closer look reveals that this fountain has become somewhat of an antique. When we look at the surroundings we begin to understand that even this fountain has stood the test of time, and it has become surrounded by new cars, buildings, and gardens.

Entanglement

This poor tree stands alone, fending off pain inflicted by man. It can no longer flaunt its beauty to its full extent, as man has overdeveloped and has split the tree's pride and beauty.

Sweet Nectar

We are all reminded of true beauty when we glance at or photograph flowers. Flowers allow us the privilege of taking in their beautiful aroma, and they open their buds so that we can enjoy them. These organisms truly are amazing, sweet, helpful, and strong.

Human Nature

Is it human nature to destroy and inflict damage to other humans? It seems this is the case today. This picture depicts a scene of terror, as bars surround the window, keeping intruders out.

Janice Cheung
10th Grade
Arroyo High School

Even Plants Have a Parking Limit

Many places have parking limits, and the signs can be put up anywhere including areas with plants.

Evil Can be in Focus

A black flower with a green background. San Leandro has many pretty and colorful flowers. Each is eye catching and beautiful in its own way.

Underwater Berries

The creek's wild berries should come close to being underwater, but because of the drought the creek is completely dry.

Abandoned "Home"

Perhaps this was once a home to people, but no one is there now.

But We Have Earthquakes

When I see a picture of a cellar, I think about *The Wizard of Oz*. If you remember, in *The Wizard of Oz* they had the tornado and had to go into the basement, and that's what comes to mind whenever I see one.

Melody C. Miller

11th Grade

San Leandro High School

Fear of the Upper World

Animals once free on land now flee to the underworld. The shapes and shadows interested me, but I did not know until after I looked at the picture carefully that there are little creatures hiding underground. If you look at the picture for a while you can see an animal, maybe a raccoon, and flies, but if you look even longer you can see something even more mysterious.

City vs. Nature

An amazing tree is trying to get back its land for its future children. Nature is fighting back against the encroachment of buildings, built over forests and land that once belonged to nature. If you look carefully you can see that this tree's roots are trying to grow upon the concrete paving.

When Water Turned to Beer

The beer once drank by humans is now absorbed by the trees. As the water reflects the trees above, the bottles reflect each other. Once whole, now broken, the bottles release their liquid.

Fallen Souls

Once in Heaven now in Hell. The tree's beautiful flowers now lie lifeless across the tree's shadow. From other points of view it looks like dead bodies in shades of dark and light. Once the petals landed on pure soil; now they land on hard concrete that has taken over.

The Hand that Changed It All

A ripple effect was created by the hand that dropped the bottle. I was drawn to the artistic combination of shapes and texture, of man-made mixed with nature. This picture depicts the transformation of a clean drinking hole for animals and insects into a dump for humans. The hand is reaching out for what was there before.

Ismael Muñoz
12th Grade
San Leandro High School

Alone
Alone,
That's how I feel.
Alone,
That's how I look.
Alone
That's how I am.
But,
The light shines today,
And hope surrounds me,
On this soothing day.

Imagination into Reality

A creation of man, suddenly bored of standing still, begins to feel. A sole trunk breaks free from the surface. Its heart begins to race with hope, and small branches begin to grow. As the branches stretch to the open sky, imagination says good-bye, and the tree becomes something more extraordinary than it could believe possible, reality.

Coexistence: Man-made Structure and Nature

An object that naturally seemed to serve another purpose lost its job. Now unemployed, it finds shelter in the continuously growing jungle. As it dreams of returning to the sea floor to fulfill its destiny as an anchor, waiting is all that this heavy object can do.

Man-made Jungle

Roses, daisies, tulips, and the monotonous lawn make for a boring garden. Finally someone decided to create what Mother Nature had intended for a garden.

Crammed with bamboo, palm trees, and other exotic flora that are usually hidden in foreign lands, this garden could be called a jungle, but considering who made it I would call it a man-made jungle.

Midnight Distortion

The light that usually provides clarity sometimes distorts our vision. The distortion makes our facades disappear, and then our true essences are shown. Yet the darkness that surrounds us prevents us from truly showing ourselves to the world.

Andrea Pulliam

11th Grade

Redwood Christian High School

The Two Messengers

They stand alone next to the passing cars, one more worn than the other. They have almost lost their purpose as they are abandoned near the street. What are they holding, if anything?

Missing the Whole

Neglected in a yard, where is the rest? Other things are strewn about, but they are complete. This lone piece lies without the whole. Someone, somewhere, has the remainder, and sadly, they are missing the wheel.

The Invasion of Man

In this urban jungle stands a reminder for all who try to park. The bamboo almost completely obscures it from the vision of passersby, but the few who take the time to look actually find it.

Living Color

The vibrant being stood out on this gloomy day. One look and the world seemed a little brighter. In a way, it was the silver lining to that cloud. All of the color made this beautiful thing stand out against all of the dreariness of the gray day.

The Stairway to Where?

It stands curiously near where a river previously flowed. Where does it lead? Lights dance about it more than people set foot on it. It stands seemingly forsaken. Maybe someday, someone will see this passageway and not take it for granted.

Jonathan Schultz
12th Grade
Arroyo High School

Yin and Yang

A tale of two cities on a modern day electrical box. A sense of yin and yang in word and image.

Step by Step

A territory is tagged, as one makes it his own. But where does this stairway lead? A stairway to heaven? No! A stairway to the creek.

From the Corner of Your Eye

Walking along, out of the corner of your eye, you see the flower standing out from the bamboo-covered city streets.

Litterbug

Useless items gather in the corner, unimportant to a passerby. But to the people who dropped them, they can mean much more. "Where is that pen?" "Was there one more cigarette left in that box?" "Where's a carabineer when I need one?"

Raindrops on Steady Waters

Drip, drip, splash. All that is heard in the dried creek. A similar scene plays out across the desolate area underneath the East 14th bridge.

Raymond Wu
12th Grade
San Leandro High School

Eternal Waves

This once quiet stream that flowed peacefully has now been swooped away by this dark and mysterious wave. The wave's power has changed the course of this stream making the next move unknown. The stream follows the wave and the wave pulls the stream along for the ride.

Summer Lights

The big, red sun pours its warmth down on you, and your skin radiates with this inexplicable feeling that reaches to your soul. Though this day will not last, it will be the day you can remember when you feel down and low; the day summer became your friend.

The Twilight Zone

As I go deeper towards eternal darkness, I get to see this one last beam of light. I will get to feel freedom one last time before reaching the point of no return: the twilight zone.

Concentric

What makes the world go around? Whenever I look at this picture, I always find my answer. If you look real close, you will find my answer.

Prehistoric Tree

Back when the dinosaurs ruled the land, they could practically do anything they wanted without any rules or laws restricting them. God was not pleased to see that the dinosaurs were just fooling around and not doing anything but eating, sleeping, and playing. So he sent huge meteors to earth and crushed the dinosaurs once and for all, leaving cavemen to rule to world. The king of the dinosaurs was smart and knew that this was going to happen, so he froze himself into a tree. He waits for the chosen one who will free him, allowing him to rule the world once more.

Special Thanks

Roy Barloga

Roy is a professional photographer who lives and works in San Leandro. Roy offered his time to provide photography instruction, critique the students' work and print the large photographs in the exhibit. He even accompanied us a couple of photographic explorations. We are grateful for his time and expertise. You can see some of Roy's own photographs at his web site, www.barlogastudios.com

Addie Silveira

Addie is the curator of the San Leandro History Museum. Addie guided the students in planning the exhibit and opening event. We appreciate her assistance and advice. Please visit the San Leandro History Museum and Art Gallery at 320 W. Estudillo Avenue.

Staff of the San Leandro Public Library

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Behind the Scenes in San Leandro is presented by the San Leandro Main Library as part of the California Council for the Humanities' *California Stories: How I See It* campaign.

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