

# STATE PARK

March 7 - May 1, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LA JOLLA, California, February, 19, 2015 - The University Art Gallery at UC San Diego is pleased to present **State Park**, on view from March 7 through May 1, 2015, with an opening reception on March 7 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

A dynamic group of artists explores the concept of state parks as complex sites that exist, ostensibly, to preserve a location on account of its natural beauty, historic relevance, and recreational potential. State parks have also functioned as templates to examine how the U.S. thinks of, envisions, and exploits the outside. In many ways, state parks are neatly groomed physical manifestations of landscape paintings-rendered perfectly in greens and browns and providing an accessible, domesticated, and colonized wilderness. But, for many, they have unlocked a kind of egalitarian sublime and enabled understanding in the out-of-doors. This exhibition unpacks state parks as sites rich with conflict and complexities---where landscape, myth, identity, class, exclusivity, exploitation, wildness, tragedy, erasure, memory, leisure, spirit, holism, play, and adventure exert their individual and collective forces. The artists included in the exhibition turn over the show's namesake so that we might see what they've seen, done, and remember, or discover who has been excluded and what's been inadvertently missed.

Immediately following the opening reception, participating artist, Heather Hart will inaugurate her project, **The Oracle of La Jolla: The Coyote and the Jewell** with a "Lock-In" and Story-Telling. Please join us with sleeping bags, pj's, and accoutrements at ~9pm. Subsequent programming will explore the oral transference of knowledge, skills, and histories through 1-hour lessons in knot-tying, survival, indigenous history, native languages, meditation, potlucks, and other events held at the University Art Gallery. For up to date information about upcoming programming please visit: [www.StateParkExhibition.com](http://www.StateParkExhibition.com)

The exhibition is curated by UC San Diego visual arts alumnus Mike Calway-Fagen and includes artists: Crystal Campbell, Nicholas des Cognets, Blane de St. Croix, Sarah O Donnell, Heather Hart, Aaron Hegert, Jeremiah Hulsebos-Spofford, Janelle Iglesias, Matthew Jensen, Christopher Mahonski, Mary Mattingly, Tyler McPhee, Possible Press, Katie Ries, Audrey Hasen Taylor, Jack Ryan, Perry Vasquez, Richard T. Walker, Letha Wilson, Sarah Workneh/Kate Clark, Brian Zimmerman

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS / EVENTS**

### **February 24, 5:00p - 5:45 pm, Peterson Hall, Room 108**

Participating artist, **Janelle Iglesias** will speak about her work as it pertains to the special performance of objects, their vibrant materiality, and harmonic assemblages.

### **March 3, 5:00 - 5:45 pm, Peterson Hall, Room 108**

Participating artist, **Heather Hart** will speak about her participatory and socially engaged projects that see people climbing rooftops, crawling underneath them, and consulting the past to realize new futures.

### **March 7 - Opening reception, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, University Art Gallery**

Exhibition curator and several participating artists will be present.

Participating artist, **Heather Hart's** "Lock-In" and "Story-Telling" will begin at **9 pm** in the gallery.

### **March 9, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Visual Arts Presentation Lab, SME 149**

Participating Curator and Possible Press' Publisher, **Rachel Reese** will speak about her dynamic pursuits as a cultural synthesizer.

### **March 10, 5:00 - 5:45 pm, Peterson Hall, Room 108**

Participating artist, **Matthew Jensen** will speak about his walk-based practice that explores conceptions of nature, landscape's multitudinous identities, and quiet activism.

**Media Contacts**

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