

# LOS GATOS WEEKLY TIMES

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COVERING THE ARTS AND LOCAL FEATURES

## Art goes on the road, thanks to Montalvo

*Displays travel  
to local towns*

By BRIAN BABCOCK

If the people won't go to the Montalvo Arts Center, then Montalvo will bring art to the people.

In an effort to be known as something more than just "the house on the hill," Montalvo has begun reaching out to the community to let residents know that the art center wants to be a part of their lives.

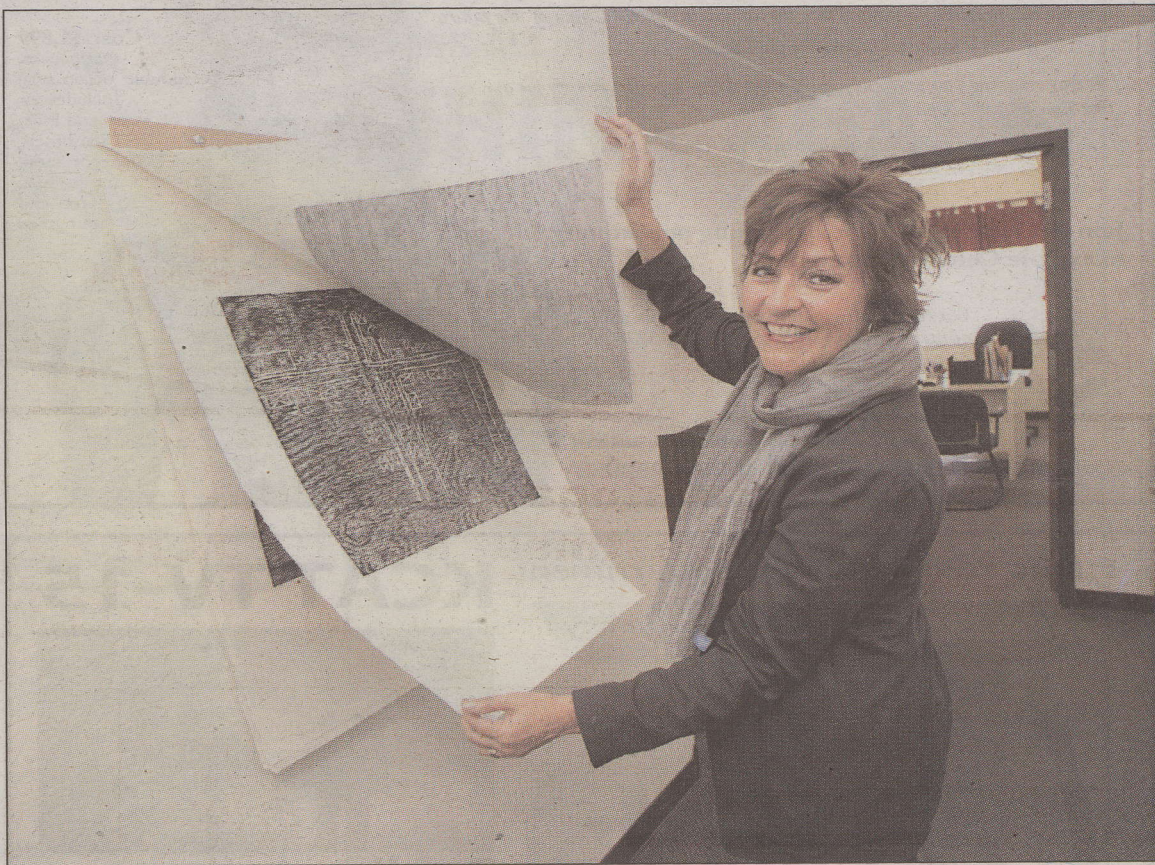
The first step the nonprofit has taken is to hang works linked to a larger exhibit at the arts center at community gathering spots, such as the Joan Pisani Community Center in Saratoga and the Los Gatos Public Library.

The first artist to participate in this project is Hirokazu Kosaka, whose "Ruin Map" began showing on June 19 at the arts center as part of the nonprofit's "AGENCY: The Works of Artists" program.

Kosaka, the current visual arts director at the Japanese American Cultural Community Center in Los Angeles, is also an ordained Buddhist priest. After completing a spiritual 1,000-mile Zen pilgrimage called "The 88 Temples" in 1973, Kosaka returned to Los Angeles, where he began creating large-scale works of art with undertones from his Buddhist teachings.

For "Ruin Map," Kosaka went back to a project he learned as a third-grader in Japan. The students were asked to go home and ask their grandparents to draw map of their hometown. The idea was to show how the towns had changed over time as compared to how the elders remembered them.

For his project, Kosaka approached those 65 and older in the community and asked that they draw, from memory, their childhood hometowns. The artist then went back to his studio and transformed a selection of the drawings



Photograph by George Sakkestad

**A piece of living art, created by Hirokazu Kosaka, is on display at the Joan Pisani Community Center in Saratoga. Nina Walker, the facilities coordinator for the Saratoga Recreation Department, flips through the pages of the work on loan from Montalvo. The arts center also has pieces hanging at the Los Gatos Public Library.**

into traditional woodblock prints that were then transferred onto handmade rice paper, and finally bound together as large books.

Those books are now on display at the community center and library, where people can touch and interact with them. Lindsey Wylie, manager of artistic programs at Montalvo, said the hope is that these displays will lead people back to the arts center.

"How often can you go to a museum or arts center and touch a piece of artwork?" she said. "Not often."

That's exactly what has Nina Walker, the facilities coordinator

for the Saratoga Recreation Department so excited.

"When I'm sitting in my office, people come by all the time to take a look at it," she said. "This one is a particularly neat one because it's an interactive piece. So you're meant to flip it out and look at it and touch it."

Walker said she was approached by Wylie and jumped at the idea of putting up Kosaka's piece in the community center. Walker liked the idea enough to ask Wylie if Montalvo would be interested in a rotating art exhibit at the community center, where artwork would be changed out on a monthly basis.

"The very nature of the commu-

nity center is to build community, and maybe people will come here to register for a yoga class," Walker said, "but also for the express purpose of looking at the piece of art."

"The community center is a place where people gather, and this just adds another dimension as to why people would come here."

*Montalvo Arts Center is located at 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga; the Joan Pisani Community Center at 19655 Allendale Ave., Saratoga; and the Los Gatos Public Library at 110 E. Main St., Los Gatos.*