



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

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PRESS RELEASE

Images available upon request

For immediate Release

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Playa Vista Branch Friends' Group invites Area Residents to Celebrate the Installation of Artist Anne Marie Karlsen's Commissioned Glass Artwork at the Library

Sat., Nov. 21, 1-3 p.m., Playa Vista Branch Library, 6400 Playa Vista Drive

The Friends of the Playa Vista Library will host a reception from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, to honor artist, Anne Marie Karlsen, and celebrate the installation of her artwork, "Flyway" – beautiful handmade-glass windows depicting a "swallow" and "snowy egret" – at the branch. The community is invited to the free event at the Playa Vista Branch Library, 6400 Playa Vista Drive.

The Playa Vista Friends Group is one of many non-profit organizations that help raise funds to support acquisitions and programs at neighborhood Los Angeles public libraries.

The artwork was commissioned by Los Angeles Public Library as part of the "Percent for Art Program," under the 1998 Library Bond. The Department of Cultural Affairs administers the program for the City of Los Angeles.

Installed in late October, the artwork includes an elongated window panel of an "egret" in the Children's Storytelling area, and a larger four-pane image of a "swallow" in the lobby area. The birds are designed using many smaller images representing a visual history of the area from the early days of the wetlands and oil derricks, to the Howard Hughes Airport facility and Spruce Goose runway to the area's present incarnation as a cutting-edge eco community.

"The artwork can be read like a book," Karlsen said. "Library visitors will be engaged in a process of exploration and discovery. What appears at first glance to look like a bird beak is in fact a silhouette of a DC 8. The eyes of the swallow are actually

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pelicans. The feather patterns on the swallow's back are from a photograph of the interiors of the Spruce Goose. Views of the Ballona Wetlands are imbedded in the tail feathers. The background is a photographic map of the North American Flyway route, with a star designating the location of Playa Vista."

The artist, Karlsen, a local Southern California resident for over 25 years, was a member of the UCLA Art Department faculty for 16 years and is currently a Professor of Art at Santa Monica College. She has earned a national and international reputation for her public art installations, including art pieces at the Sun Valley Branch Library and an award-winning piece at the Los Angeles County's Lawndale Library. Additionally, she was part of a group of artists who installed artwork at the Department of Education Building in the State Capital Area East End Complex in Sacramento, California.

Joseph Atkinson, library branch manager, said "The residents and stakeholders of the communities surrounding the Ballona Wetlands are quite proud of their new art installation at Playa Vista Branch Library. We received a tremendous number of comments from patrons who are intrigued by the new art glass windows."

Reminding viewers of the library's literary purpose, one of the Playa Vista glass art works includes a quote to draw together the ideas of "observation, imagination, invention and nature" from Sir Richard Francis Burton – "One cannot look at the sea without wishing for the wings of a swallow."

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest population of any library in the country through its Central Library, 71 branch libraries, collection of over six million books and other items, and its Web site (www.lapl.org). These resources and its more than 18,000 annual public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

The Playa Vista Branch is located in the Eleventh Council District represented by Councilmember Bill Rosendahl.

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