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# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: Sue Mitchell's love affair with California

*Artist Sue Mitchell is embarking on a big year*

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BY JILL JONES AND CELIA CUDIAMAT / THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Artist Sue Mitchell is embarking on a big year.

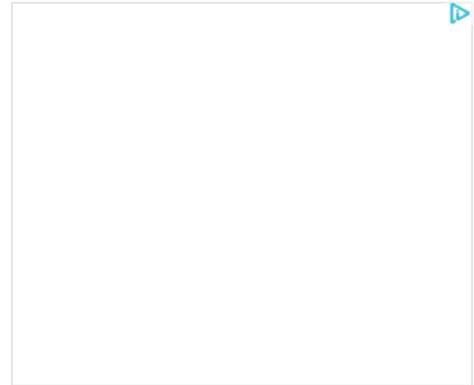
She is celebrating a milestone birthday while beginning an ambitious art project that will take from October 2012 to October 2013. It begins with a featured artist display at the Riverside Community Art Association, or RCAA, Gallery at 3870 Lemon St. in Riverside. The opening reception kickoff occurs during the October ArtsWalk on Oct. 4.

For the display at RCAA, entitled "A Love Affair," Mitchell will present her printmaking and mixed media work that incorporates rocks she has been collecting along the California coastline for 35 years — a collection that is part of her artistic "love affair."

At first the collection served as inspiration only, but as Mitchell became absorbed in more and more printmaking and mixed media classes, she was able to incorporate the rocks into her artworks.

Following the featured artist spot at RCAA, the level of artistic involvement for Mitchell expands dramatically. Mitchell will begin working on a yearlong project that culminates with an exhibit at RAM in October 2013.

As of Oct. 1, 2012, Mitchell will begin an art sabbatical from her work as co-founder and CEO/president of Riverside Personnel Services Inc. The artwork project will begin exactly 34 years to the day of starting up Riverside Personnel Services.



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The project, which is creatively and meticulously planned by Mitchell, is entitled "52," as in 52 weeks, or as in artwork of 52 favorite trees at Fairmount Park, but phrasing it in that manner would be to merely reduce the project to a product when it is about so much more than just product.

Mitchell is a heady "thinking person" type of artist who will drink in the totality of the experience by reflecting on and documenting the process as well as motivating herself to explore creative expressions and products, and to study connections to art history. She has planned a well-rounded course of study and activity as well as lining up resources and mentors to assist in the project.

The exhibit planned for the completion of the project will be held upstairs in two galleries of the RAM museum. One, more process oriented, will feature the elements of her working studio, her work process and how the year progressed.

The second gallery room will be more product-oriented and will house the printmaking studies of her 52 favorite trees in Fairmount Park "the Montezuma Palm Cypress that line a favorite portion of Lake Evans.

In addition to the display, she will also spend a month of the show as a full-time artist in residence and will coordinate art-related activities and educational programs to further enhance the impact of the project. She will share her journey on Facebook and through a blog as well as keeping her followers updated via emails.

"Sue Mitchell is the type of person whose passion inspires everyone around her. She understands the importance of art in her community and has supported artists while developing her own work. She knows what she wants to say with her work and now shares her passion with anyone who stops to look," says artist and art instructor Denise Kraemer.

Mitchell still considers herself new to the artistic world as a participant since she only began working in mixed media and printmaking in 2008, but she is certainly not new in terms of her contributions to the arts community.

She has volunteered her time and money to numerous charities and arts and cultural organizations in Riverside and has been a patron of the arts for most of her life. It is clear that art is in her blood and she is committed to making a uniquely creative journey that brings her full circle.

"Sue has been on art's slippery slope for years -- aficionado, then collector, then maker of prints and quirky, multimedia assemblages. But now we get to watch as she leaves the slippery slope, goes off a cliff and into year-long freefall. On a 'significant birthday,' Sue's setting off on a dedicated yearlong effort to explore art and herself. Every day. Every hour. For a year. I admire the dedication, intensity, and insanity. It's really a model for all of us. And I'm waiting to see the results," says artist photographer Douglas McCulloh.

For more information about the featured artist display at RCAA, call 951-682-6737. For additional information, visit the artist's new website at [www.suemitchellart.com](http://www.suemitchellart.com)

For more information about the Artist Spotlight, contact Celia Cudiamat, Interim President/CEO of The Community Foundation at 951-241-7777 or [info@thecommunityfoundation.net](mailto:info@thecommunityfoundation.net).

The Community Foundation is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation serving the residents of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. With \$60 million in assets, it provides college scholarships and grants to nonprofit organizations across the two-county area. As a philanthropic leader in the Inland Empire, The Community



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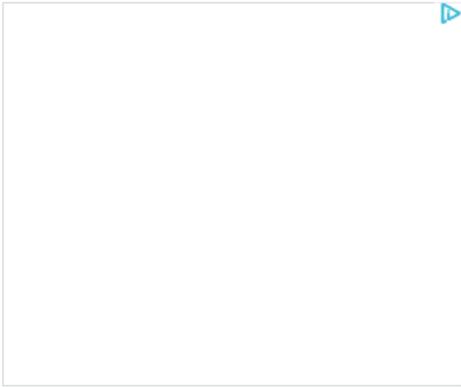
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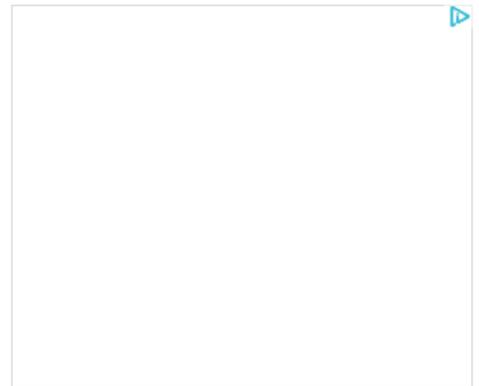
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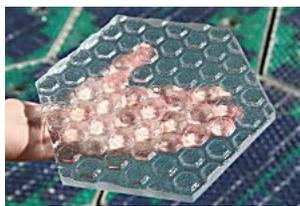
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