

## 1078 Gallery explores 'Fractured Translucence'

By LAUREN BROOKS - The Buzz Editor

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CHICO -- The 1078 Gallery will host a reception for an exhibition by artist Kimberlee Koym-Murteira, of Berkeley, this month.

The exhibition, titled "Fractured Translucence: A Site-Specific Installation," will be on display from Aug. 21 through Sept. 12.

An opening reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. Aug. 21, with an artist's talk at 6 p.m., at the gallery, 820 Broadway. The reception will also feature mandolin music by Rob Wilson.

Fascinated by the exchange of energy and toxic substances people share with each other and the world around them, Kimberlee Koym-Murteira, 38, explores the permeability of physical and psychological boundaries, with a focus on resiliency and translucency.

"I like the idea of wonderment," she said Tuesday, adding that she explores simple things through art.

Toxicity, fragility and the human experience are some of the themes in her work.

Koym-Murteira reflects on how technology intersects people's lives and how the pace of society imprints a toll on individuals.

Her installations are composed of interactive machines, kinetic sculptures, videos and studies of natural phenomena, enticing the viewer to rethink ideas of reuse, toxicity, availability, activity and beauty.

Koym-Murteira started out as a theater set designer before becoming a film artist.

"I think my instinct was to make larger installations," she said.

For her installation "99¢ Bubble," Koym-Murteira put a toxic twist on the idea of "shopping local" by purchasing all of her materials, candy-hued cleaners and plastic goods, at the neighborhood West Oakland 99¢ Store, one of the only resources for goods in the area.

"I have this attraction to plastic, even though it's horrible," Koym-Murteira said.

Conversely, in her installation, "Converter," she focused on materials in a raw state, transforming water, nightlights and unpainted pegboard into a series of moving water sculptures imbued with differing personalities. Using a self-invented video projection system, these characters were housed within the domestic setting, a pegboard cut-out created the illusion that the spectators themselves were inside one of the moving boxes.

While this involvement was suggestive, at other times, as for the installation "Watermachine," Koym-Murteira turned control of the imagery over to the spectators by making an interactive interface to create and play with shimmering arcs of light.

She hopes viewers enjoy experiencing her art work and find it interesting, she said.

Originally from San Antonio, Texas, Koym-Murteira lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In northern California, she has shown her work at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Mission 17, Sonoma State University, the Invisible Venue, and The Lab. In 2004 she was awarded a residency grant by Lugar

Comum in Lisbon, Portugal.

In Europe, her work has been shown at the Biennial of Mediterranean Young Artist in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Porto 2000 Capital of Culture, Cultural Center Malaposta, Gallery ZDB and "Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin" in 2001. That year she also participated in shows at Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Arts in Florida and Beecher Center for Technology in the Arts in Ohio.

She earned her MFA in Art from Mills College and holds an MA in scenography from Central St. Martins College of Art & Design, London. In the fall, she will lecture at Diablo Valley College.

During the 1078 Gallery exhibition, limited-edition catalogues, designed by Carla Resnick for "Fractured Translucence," which include images by Koym-Murteira and an essay by Abi Basch, will be available for \$10.

The gallery is open from 12:30-5:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. For more information, call the gallery at 343-1973.

Artist's statement: Kimberlee Koym-Murteira

"In my work, I view the home as someplace taken for granted. It is a place that offers refuge for people to reengage their interior processes, to recharge from the trials of an alienating, over-stimulating, and demanding world. I am amazed and baffled by the resilience of the internal. I'm interested in how little daily things — cooking dinner, sweeping the floor, walking the dog — change who we are within. These simple acts realign our systems, nourish our imagination, reconnect memories, and activate our dormant passions.

I utilize art processes that echo these hands-on household actions. Light, water, video, ordinary

supplies, such as pegboard and plastic bottles, are my current materials of choice. They highlight my appreciation of the commonplace, allowing me to explore the mystery of the unknown embedded within the everyday. To get there, I work at finding ways to coax seemingly magical effects from plain home staples.

These materials also allude to a childhood perspective, where wonder is so often found in the simplest things. I find I have never lost that same sense of wonder of playing with and observing the visual magic of optical illusions and natural phenomena.

I employ a collage strategy that pulls in video, electronics, mirrors, hardware store sundries, and unlikely things found around the house. Following a spirit of improvisation and experimentation, I cut up, manipulate and paste together this assembly, as I explore ways to expand and constrict image and movement.

My work investigates the energy that drives us. I transform this internal power to invent processes that generate a sense of wonderment."

Source: [www.kimberleekoym-murteira.com](http://www.kimberleekoym-murteira.com)