



**COLLEGE**  
*of*  
**the DESERT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

James Meier 760.773.2589 (office)  
760.848.8230 (cell)  
Interim Director,  
Community Relations

**College of the Desert presents 'Beyond the Blue' art exhibit**

**PALM DESERT, CA** — College of the Desert is proud to present the exhibition "Beyond the Blue" at the Marks Art Center now through Oct.26.

An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21. Closing events on Thursday, Oct. 26, will feature a 3 p.m. panel discussion followed by a reception from 4 to 7 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public.

This multidisciplinary exhibition will showcase dozens of paintings, drawings, and handmade objects created by participants in the California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) Community-based Art (CBA) Prison Arts Collective project in response to five distinct, unifying themes including:

- Alternative Materiality
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Line as Language
- Dreams, Imagination, and the Surreal
- The Experience of Incarceration

"Beyond the Blue" is the second major exhibition organized by the CSUSB's Community-based Art program's Prison Arts Collective. Demonstrating the diversity of artistic styles and depth of creative expression among artists that are incarcerated, this exhibition will provide the viewers an opportunity to engage with works created by those participating in university-led arts programming while incarcerated.

A majority of works featured have been donated by the artists with the dual goal of sharing their work with a wider audience and raising funds to support ongoing CBA programming in prisons and in the community. Viewers are invited to participate through a written or visual reflection in a collaborative response book and/or by purchasing a work of art with all proceeds going directly to support ongoing CBA Prison Arts Collective classes.

All artworks are made by CBA participants in the Prison Arts Collective projects at six CA state prisons, including those in Blythe, Chino, Lancaster and Norco.

Alongside “Beyond the Blue,” the Prison Arts Collective will host a comprehensive series of panel discussions titled “Art and Restorative Justice.”

An Oct. 26 panel at College of the Desert’s Marks Art Center will be moderated by Lisa Soccio, the Marks Art Center Director and an Associate Professor of Art at College of the Desert, from 3 to 4 p.m.

College of the Desert’s Walter N. Marks Center for the Arts is at 43500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and by appointment. For more information, please contact the Marks Art Center at (760) 776-7278.

If you’re a media member looking to cover the opening night reception on Thursday, please contact James Meier at (760) 776-7468 or [JMeier@collegeofthedesert.edu](mailto:JMeier@collegeofthedesert.edu)

**About College of the Desert:**

Established in 1958, College of the Desert (COD), located in Palm Desert, is an accredited community college serving eastern Riverside County, California. The College leads the region in providing quality, higher education, technical training and lifelong learning opportunities, in response to the dynamic needs of our diverse community. The College serves more than 14,000 credit and 1,000 non-credit students each year and is the number one source of transfer students to California State University, San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus. For more information, visit [www.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu).

**About Prison Arts Collective:**

The Prison Arts Collective is a project of California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) Community-based Art (CBA), an initiative dedicated to expanding access to art at sites that would not otherwise have access to it. CBA is founded and directed by Artist/Writer and Associate Professor of Visual Studies Annie Buckley, in collaboration with students, alumni, and volunteer artists and writers. The Prison Arts Collective is a project of CBA dedicated to facilitating art in local prisons and supporting further collaborations between the state university and prison systems. This project is supported by Arts in Corrections, an initiative of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the California Arts Council.

**About CSUSB Community-based Art:**

CSUSB Community-based Art is dedicated to facilitating art throughout the local community at sites that would not otherwise have access to it, including after school programs for at-risk children, shelters for youth, low-income housing for seniors, and correctional facilities including state prisons, the CSUSB Reentry Center, and County Probation. On campus, students learn about the social, cultural, and economic barriers to access to art. On site, students, alumni, and volunteers shift the paradigm by facilitating art with populations that are vulnerable and at-risk.

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