



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contact: Alesha Colberg
Exhibitions & Programs Coordinator
510/763-4361 alesha@proartsgallery.org

PRO ARTS PROJECT

***Recycled Runway* by Sandy Drobny & Daphne Ruff**

October 13 – November 5, 2006

Oakland, CA.

Pro Arts, in collaboration with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County (SVdP), is pleased to announce ***Recycled Runway***, an installation by SVdP Artist in Residence artists Sandy Drobny and Daphne Ruff. The exhibition opens at Pro Arts on Friday, October 13 at noon, and will be on view through Sunday, November 5, 2006. A reception for the artists will be held on November 3 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

SVdP's Artist in Residence (AIR) program, launched this spring, is a residency program that gives artists access to SVdP's warehouse of donated goods and use of its art studio to create artistic products from otherwise unusable items, which are then sold at SVdP thrift stores.

"Pro Arts is helping us share hidden treasures found and re-created by our artists, Daphne and Sandy," said Philip Arca, Executive Director of SVdP. "Our hope is that from this found art, we will find hidden talents in the people we work with. From these pieces, we intend to find products we can replicate and produce by hiring individuals that walk into our doors – helping them create a brighter future by getting back into the workforce."

Margo Dunlap, Executive Director of Pro Arts said, "Pro Arts is pleased to present the culminating work of the Artist in Residency program. Ruff and Drobny demonstrate that found materials translate into functional art. The results are inspiring and have a positive impact on our community."

Drobny is a textile artist and handweaver with more than 20 years of experience. Ruff teaches middle school students in Berkeley and a college course at Columbia College in Alameda. Their past creations have included theme-based aprons and wearable sculptures created from recycled materials.

About the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County

Headquartered in Oakland, California, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County (SVdP) is a direct service non-profit organization that provides assistance to 100,000 homeless and low-income people each year. Services include a soup kitchen, a food bank, two daytime resource centers, two medical clinics and a workforce development program.

About Pro Arts

Pro Arts is a nonprofit artist-based membership organization that supports the diverse cultural communities in the Bay Area by exhibiting artists' work and providing a venue for furthering communication in the arts.

Pro Arts is located at 550 Second Street, Oakland, CA, 94607. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday, Noon - 6pm; and Sunday, Noon - 5pm. Entrance is free.

More information and images are available upon request. Contact Alesha Colberg, Exhibitions and Programs Coordinator at Pro Arts Gallery. Phone: 510/763-4361. E-mail: alesha@proartsgallery.org

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