

USC IGM Art Gallery's Soft Machine: DNA Exhibition Artist Wins Competition at event sponsored by the student organization Occupy CSULB and hosted at University Art Museum, CSU Long Beach



**Donnie Bessom, Occupy CSULB organizer; Mike Saijo, SMP Artist/Curator
Brian Trimble, UAM Curator of Education.**

Los Angeles, 12/02/11: Yesterday, the student organization **Occupy CSULB** awarded \$500 to Artist/Curator Mike Saijo for an artwork made in response to recent Occupy events staged across the country. Mr. Saijo's **Soft Machine: DNA** exhibit is currently at the USC IGM Art Gallery through February 26, 2012.

As part of educational and campus outreach for the exhibition **Peace Press Graphics 1967-1987: Art in the Pursuit of Social Change** (a part of the **Getty Pacific Standard Time** initiative) presently on view at the **University Art Museum (UAM)**, student organizations on the CSULB campus are given an opportunity to organize events at the Museum. As UAM Curator of Education Brian Trimble has said, "We have always welcomed the student community. We are happy to provide a public space for students to participate in socially relevant discussions and to engage with UAM exhibitions." In the survey *Peace Press Graphics 1967-1987*, the work of the progressive poster press and their connections to artist collectives of the time are examined. (For more: <http://www.csulb.edu/org/uam/EXHIBITIONScurrent.html>)

Occupy CSULB organizer Donnie Bessom arranged the December 1st **Why Occupy?** event. Because of its calls for social justice, Occupy CSULB joins the lineage of organizations like the historic Peace Press Graphics and the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (which partnered with the UAM in the presentation of *Peace Press*). The UAM provided a venue for a panel discussion lead by Occupy CSULB organizers and student leaders from other campus-based student organizations. Additionally, Occupy CSULB sponsored an art exhibition and competition in the front of the UAM. Brian Trimble, the UAM liaison, reviewed the competition's submissions and gave the \$500 award to **Mike Saijo**.



WHY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
CSULB UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM
OCCUPY 3-5 PM STUDENT PANEL
5-7 PM MIXER/ART CONTEST

Make your own art and WIN up to \$500! Learn more about the Movement! Bring your ideas!



Mr. Saijo's **Soft Machine: DNA** exhibit, currently on display at the USC IGM Art Gallery through February 26, 2012, is presented as part of **Arts+health Month**, organized by the USC IGM Art Gallery in collaboration with the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, LA/Nagoya Sister Cities Affiliation, Sister Cities International SoCal Chapter, Inc. and artAngels.org. **Arts+health Month** kicked off on November 8 with the Community Leaders Preview Reception and program that included a presentation on Youth-Led Organizing, a screening of a clip from the documentary film, ELA Interchange, and performances and motivational talks by L.A. Phil violinist, Robert Gupta, TED Senior Fellow and founder of Street Symphony, and Charlie Lustman, cancer survivor and singer/songwriter.

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