

Living

Living Section Editor Cynthia Takano, 241-4141. Ext. 210

Library's L.A. Festival exhibit is warmly received

By Scott Holleran
Glendale News-Press

Brand Library Art Galleries featured a performance art show Friday in an artists' reception for the Los Angeles Festival exhibit on view through Sept. 14.

The exhibit, "Crossing L.A.: Home, Place, Memory," features the works of Ulysses Jenkins Jr., Habib Kheradyar, Kevin Miller and Matthew Thomas.

The five-week Los Angeles Festival began Aug. 20 and continues through Sept. 19 at more than 40 sites throughout the Los Angeles basin. The festival presents the work of some 600 artists based in Los Angeles and other parts of the United States, bringing particular focus to African, African-American and Middle Eastern cultures.

The festival includes a number of art exhibitions produced by independent organizations in consultation with the festival around the theme, "Crossing L.A.: Home, Place, Memory," according to Claire Peeps, associate artistic director of the festival.

Crossing LA: Home, Place, Memory

Brand Library Art Galleries
1601 West Mountain St.
through Sept. 14

Hours: 1 to 9 p.m. Tuesday
and Thursday

1 to 9 p.m. Wednesday
1 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Admission: Free

For information, call
Cynthia Cleary, 548-2050

Brand's involvement resulted from a synergy between the local library and festival organizers, she added. "Brand was interested in being part of the festival, and we had discovered these artists who had a project in keeping with our theme," she explained.

During the Friday evening reception, Jenkins and Thomas presented "Call and Response(s)," a video phone exchange between Brand and KA/OS Network Gal-

lery in South Central Los Angeles and the Electronic Cafe in Santa Monica.

Although technical problems marred the performance, for many patrons, their first visit to the gallery was memorable.

"Stunning" was how Gwen Adams of Los Angeles found her first visit. "I hope to come again," she said as she admired a work by Kheradyar.

The work, "Tiles of Memory," was created by a process using paper, wax and color. Adams liked the work because, she said, "I love the color blue."

Artist Habib Kheradyar used an oil-based dye to get the color. "The blue is a color you see in all the great mosques," he said, referring to his native Iran.

He has spent the last 21 years in the United States but said the work expresses his "Iranian half."

He has found the experience during the exhibit a positive one, describing the hilltop gallery as "a beautiful place."

The Los Angeles artist, a 1986 Artist of the Year in the city of Carson, is experimenting with "activating" space and said he is influenced by "everything."

Raeanna Gleason, a Crescenta Valley High School student, said she thought the video presentation was "pretty neat."

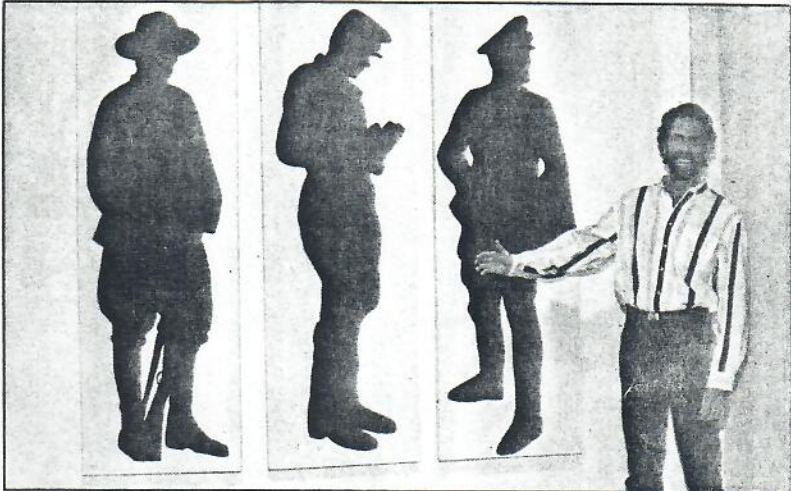
She also liked "Settlement," a work by Kevin Miller.

She ventured out with her grandmother, Ursula, a member of the Associates of Brand Library.

Commenting on the reception's success, Gleason said she thought most people enjoyed what they saw but added: "The evening didn't go too smoothly to begin with," because the technical failure prevented part of the video presentation.

The video program was the work of Ulysses Jenkins Jr., a self-described "video/performance artist" who was recently inducted into the Blackfilmmakers Hall of Fame for his work in an Experimental Category.

His performance piece impressed Lynn Whitehead, a substitute teacher. She said she "liked it very much," while noting the "technology was not what it



Photos by Dante de Guzman/Glendale News-Press

Artist Kevin Miller poses with his piece, "Posing Threats," on view at Brand Library through Sept. 14.

should be.

"The rest of the exhibit was very nice," she said. The Pasadena resident was equally taken with the gallery. "This is my first visit to Brand Library, and I really like the architecture. This is a beautiful building."

Robin Geselowitz drove in with a friend from Pacific Palisades to attend the reception. She had been in an art class with performer/artist Matthew Thomas.

Her fellow student's work involving sound appealed to her, she said, "because I'm a musician."

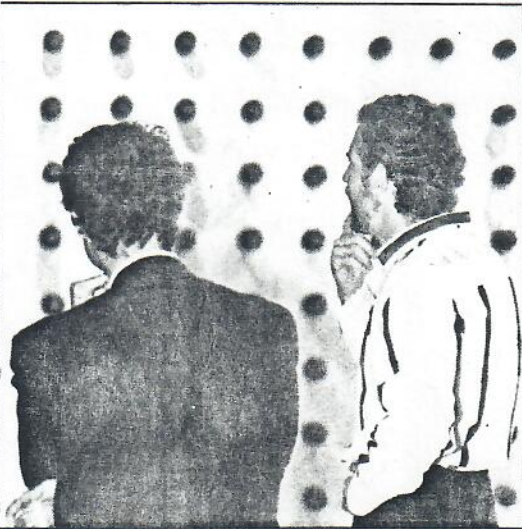
Describing it as "celestial," she said she wanted "to become one with it. I want to go up and touch it."

She has an environmentalist's interpretation of the work, which makes use of sand and other materials. "It means the earth and mud," she said.

Geselowitz's friend, Carol Mora of Santa Monica, said the drive to the Jewel City was worth it. Another first-timer to the gallery, she admitted: "I didn't quite know what was going on when I came in, but I'm enjoying all of it."



Matthew Thomas is one of four artists who are presenting their work in the Los Angeles Festival exhibition in the Brand Library Art Galleries.



Habib Kheradyar, left, and Kevin Miller look over Kheradyar's "Tiles of Memory," which is featured in "Crossing L.A.: Home, Place, Memory."