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Carnaval! at SMC's Museum of Art

By Andrea A. Firth



Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago Photo Robert Jerome

Showing alongside the Carnaval! exhibit and not to be missed in the museum's three other galleries will be the works of painters Lockwood de Forest, Ryan Reynolds, and William Keith. Viewers will be able to take a vicarious trip down the Nile viewing a selection of sketches and paintings by the atmospheric painter de Forest based on his travel to the region in the late 1800s. Urban landscapes of the hills and bay lands of contemporary painter Reynolds, an assistant professor of art at Santa Clara University, will be exhibited in the Studio Gallery. And a selection of the best of the big High Sierra oil paintings by William Keith, part of the museum's permanent collection, will also be on display.



Yosemite Valley with Bridal Veil Falls 1880 William Keith

Carnaval! - the upcoming exhibit at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art - promises to be more like going to a fun party held in a museum than viewing a traditional art show. With flat screen televisions displaying the sights and sounds of Carnaval celebrations and parades, exhibit goers will feel like dancing from room to room like festival revelers partying in the streets.

The opening of the exhibit this Saturday, Feb. 2 coincides perfectly with Carnaval's rich tradition of partying before Lent's 40 days of penance, and visitors are encouraged to join in the fun and wear costumes, masks, and medallions. The opening day festivities will also include the screening of a video documentary by Robert Jerome, which shows how Carnaval is celebrated around the world.

Made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities, this touring exhibit features the pageantry, theater, and history of Carnaval from seven different countries and Mardi Gras in the United States. Elaborate costumes, headdresses, masks, musical instruments, and photographs that portray the diversity of this celebration from New Orleans, Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Trinidad, Venice, Spain, and Switzerland will be on view through April 14.

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