

MEDIA RELEASE



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Whole New Worlds: The Magic of Themed Entertainment **October 1-29, 2009**

Laguna College of Art & Design presents a collection of works showcasing the diverse talents of artists whose meticulous crafting of detail makes the world of themed entertainment a reality. The free exhibition begins October 1 and runs through the 29th at the college gallery, located at 2222 Laguna Canyon Road in Laguna Beach. Exhibition hours are Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm, and Saturday from 9am-3 pm. The opening reception will be held in conjunction with the First Thursdays Art Walk on October 1 from 6-8pm. Ample complimentary parking is available.

Unlike the traditional amusement park, themed entertainment takes the visitor into an environment where all elements of the experience from attractions, shows, character costumes and even landscaping are carefully designed to convey a cohesive theme or story. The effect is to transport the spectator into totally immersive imaginary world. Although Disneyland is one of the earliest and most well-known applications of themed entertainment, today there are many different venues such as Universal's Islands of Adventure, Legoland and the recently retired Star Trek: The Experience in Las Vegas.

Featured Artist **Helen McCarthy** has worked for Disney Imagineering, Tokyo Disney Seas and Universal Theme Park. Her career includes developing concept design and illustrations for theme parks and attractions as well as interactive rides and animatronics. **Tom Thordarson's** 17 years in the theme park industry encompasses conceiving, illustrating and painting concepts for rides and attractions as a Disney Imagineer. **Wes Cook** was considered one of the most prolific concept designers and artists in the field of themed entertainment and had an extensive career in the film and television industry. Wes passed away in February of 2005 following a career with Disney Imagineering and Universal's Islands of Adventure Park in Florida. **Scott Drake** is a Principal Concept Designer for the Blue Sky creative department of Walt Disney Imagineering where he brainstorms concepts and visualizes future attractions and experiences for Disney Park guests. Drake was the lead designer of the new Disneyland Monorail Mark VII trains that opened at the Disneyland Resort in 2008. Many of his concepts are considered "top secret" because they involve the future expansion of Disney Parks and Resorts around the world.

Images:

Helen McCarthy
Tom Thordarson
Wes Cook
Scott Drake

Founded on Classical Drawing Skills, Fueled by Creative Energy, and Dedicated to Excellence

Laguna College of Art & Design is a private, not-for-profit college where outstanding artist-educators, visual arts programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and year-round exhibitions give fresh vision to Laguna's extraordinary legacy in the visual arts. Founded in 1961, the college educates artists at all stages of their creative careers, offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Drawing and Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Game Art, and Animation, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting.

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