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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Kennedy Library Seeking Entries For 'Books of War and Peace' Exhibit

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly's Kennedy Library is seeking artists and community members to submit entries of handmade books for a traveling exhibit titled "Peace Library: Artists' Books of War and Peace."

The exhibit is intended to encourage community dialogue on issues, concepts and opinions surrounding the theme of war and peace, according to Catherine Trujillo of the Special Collections area of the Kennedy Library.

As the Peace Library exhibit travels to different cities, books by artists in those communities will be added to the collection to reflect those communities' views and opinions.

The format of handmade books was chosen because of the intimacy that develops between the artist and viewer, according to representatives of the Peace Library committee.

"The emotions connected with war and peace are charged and often cause defensive and angry discussion," committee members said. "The very nature of the book form is comfortable, and hopefully a means of expression that allows for an understanding of artists' ideas, inviting the viewer to 'listen' to the work.

"The hope is that the books will ask questions or present answers, express frustration, provide new thought and new emotional responses to conflict resolution, and to create a community dialogue that is presented in a body of work.

"We offer an open invitation to book artists and community members to take part in this dialogue in the hopes that the concept will travel and widen the discussion of these contemporary issues."

To preserve the essence of each show, a handmade expandable catalog of all entries has been created for the Peace Library. Sales of limited editions will help support the project.

The first phase of the exhibit is on display through Sept. 29 at the Johnson Gallery and Framing Studio at 547 March St. in San Luis Obispo.

The second phase will be on display Nov. 4-Dec. 5 in two San Luis Obispo County locations: in the Special Collections area of the Kennedy Library at Cal Poly and in the Paso Robles Public Library. Future venues will be announced when plans are finalized.

Artists and community members are invited to submit entries through Oct. 10 for the second phase of the traveling exhibition. For information on submitting entries, call Trujillo at 756-2305 or Melinda Forbes at 438-5077.

The exhibit in the Kennedy Library will be open Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The exhibit in the Paso Robles Public Library, at 1000 Spring St., will be open Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

A panel of local artists will gather at 11 a.m. Nov. 6 in the Special Collections area of the Kennedy Library to discuss the creative process. A question-and-answer session will follow. Guests are invited to view the exhibit prior to the panel discussion. Call 756-2305 to reserve a seat.

For more information contact Trujillo at 756-2305 or ctrujill@calpoly.edu.

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