

San Jose Mercury News

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

MERCURYNEWS.COM 3A



Around town >> Sal Pizarro

S.F. artist's work lights up rotunda

San Jose City Hall's rotunda again has been transformed into an artist's canvas.

For the next week, San Francisco artist **Camille Utterback** will have her abstract art and animation splashed onto the glass and steel structure every night after dark.

At the lighting ceremony Friday, Utterback said she was influenced by the valley's agricultural history and the fall season while creating the work, titled "Abundance." The work serves as a preview of June's Zero01 digital art festival.

After the projectors were switched on shortly after 8 p.m., Utterback gave a sigh of relief — at least until a brief rainfall sent onlookers scurrying and technicians scrambling to cover up the electronic equipment.

While not as broad in scope as **Akira Hasegawa's** Zero01 exhibit in August 2006 — "D-K Live" was projected from several angles, not just one, and also encompassed the City Hall

wing — Utterback's "Abundance" is distinguished by the way it interacts with visitors.

A camera attached to the upper floors of the rotunda captures people as they move in the plaza below. Those movements are translated to a set of computer-program rules, which then alter the composition of the image. Utterback says she'll be tinkering with the rules all week, so one type of movement Monday night may produce an entirely different response Tuesday.

At the event, San Jose State University Provost **Carmen Sigler** and Montalvo Arts Center director **Bob Sain** announced a new collaboration for an artists' residency program called Fuse, and IstACT Silicon Valley announced a \$100,000 investment in Zero01.

Among those mingling around the rotunda were San Jose public art director **Barbara Goldstein**, **Dan Keegan** of the San Jose Museum of Art,

Peter Friess from the Tech Museum of Innovation, San Jose Jazz executive director **Geoff Roach** and **Connie Martinez**, managing director of IstACT Silicon Valley.

Commercial real estate broker **Mark Ritchie** was bullish about the festival's potential to become a premier event for San Jose. "Zero01 needs to be like Burning Man," he said, "but with plumbing and pavement."

SERVING STRONG: City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley's 40 corps members got their year of service started Friday morning with a ceremony at San Jose City Hall.

They wasted no time after the ceremony, and Friday afternoon they were painting blacktop games and murals at G.W. Hellyer Elementary School in San Jose.

No doubt you've noticed City Year corps members before because of their distinctive yellow bomber jackets. Until this year,

those jackets made the Silicon Valley group unique among the 18 communities where City Year works.

Everyone else wears red, but because that's a gang color in Northern California, yellow was deemed a safer option. A City Year group that was started in Los Angeles this fall also will wear yellow.

Beach Pace, executive director of City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley, said she hopes the group one day can drop the yellow. "I want us to have so much of an impact on the community that the gang issue isn't there and we can wear red," she said.

CENTENNIAL: Castilleja School in Palo Alto celebrated its 100th anniversary Friday, and nearly 2,000 people — including more than 250 alumni — showed up to say "Happy Birthday."

The party kicked off a year-long program of special events at the small, all-girls school.

The celebration included an alumni water polo match, entertainment from Bay Area R&B band the **Bingtones** and a "Decade Parade," honoring various classes going back to the 1930s.

Among the parade participants was Palo Alto businessman **Tom Williams**, one of the few boys who attended Castilleja when the primary grades were co-ed. He also loaned his 1940s Ford convertible for the parade.

CONCERT: Soprano **Haerim Park**, who won the San Jose Woman's Club Vocal Scholarship this year, will be giving a lunch recital Tuesday at the club, 75 S. 11th St.

Park is working on her master's degree in vocal performance at San Jose State University. The event starts at 11:30 a.m. and costs \$25. Call (408) 294-6919 for more information.

SPOTTED: Making the

rounds Friday night, I ran into **Barry Swenson** enjoying a beverage at Cinebar, one of San Jose's great, old dive bars. The Silicon Valley development king was there celebrating with his Delta Upsilon brothers after a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the fraternity's new house on South 11th Street near San Jose State.

SPOKEN: At the opening-night event Wednesday for "Body Worlds 2," the exhibit at the Tech Museum of Innovation that features preserved bodies and body parts, a man was wandering around asking guests if they had seen a pancreas yet. Asked why he was so interested, the man replied, "I'm looking to see the organ that's making my son's life so difficult. He has diabetes."

Contact him at spizarro@mercurynews.com or (408) 627-0940 and read him online (<http://blogs.mercurynews.com/pizarro>).