



art for heart's sake

For the past five years, St. Luke's Chief of Cardiology Ed Kersh, M.D. has arranged for displays of artwork by local artists in the Cardiovascular Center at St. Luke's. The current exhibit, Cheers to Muses: Contemporary Works by Asian American Women, was unveiled at a special reception November 20. The event, which included a patient education lecture on "How to Survive a Heart Attack," was sponsored by donations from patients, the Boston Scientific Corporation and the California Pacific Medical Center Foundation.

"This important event raises vital funds for equipment, services and educational programs at the Cardiovascular Center," says Maria Vicente-Puletti, a clinical social worker at the St. Luke's Health Care Center and a trustee with the foundation. "The party and the exhibit itself are an opportunity to not only showcase local artists, but also to thank the patients of the Cardiovascular Center and encourage community support."

Local noted artists Mario Rosales and Antonio Huerta have curated previous exhibits. Cheers to Muses, on display through March, is presented by the Asian American Women Artists Association (AAWAA). Contributing artists include Cynthia Tom, Machiko Kondo, Melissa Chow, Naylyne Lunati, Kristina Soriano, Shari Arai DeBoer, Sue Tom and Susan Almazol. Additional AAWAA exhibits at the Cardiovascular Center this year will include:

- A Place of Her Own, March 2009 – July 2009
- Asian American Art, July 2009 – November 2009

Various members of the AAWAA also are featured in a current exhibit at the De Young Museum: Asian/American/Modern Art: Shifting Currents. For more information on AAWAA, call 415-722-4296 or visit www.aawaa.net.

The exhibits in the Cardiovascular Center at 1580 Valencia Street, Suite 412, are open to the public, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. Most of the artwork is available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to the California Pacific Medical Center Foundation.

"Investing in one of these important pieces of art or donating to the foundation is a win-win proposition that benefits you, our artists, our patients, our staff and the community," Puletti says. "Donors can designate their funds for the Cardiovascular Center or to the general fund for St. Luke's. For many of our grateful patients, donating is close to their hearts."



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