

SPARK

spark plug newsletter

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Life in the art world is always open for interpretation. With this in mind please double check the dates, times, and locations with the presenting organizations before heading out to any of the following **Spark Event Picks**.

If you want to find more arts organizations to support, check out our monthly [Arts Orgs Guide](#) or our recommendations for local [Arts Calendars](#).

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Dance



The Art of Interpretation: **ODC Dance's annual holiday classic "The Velveteen Rabbit"**

odcdance.org

Suitable for ages 3 and up, this 18th annual holiday production of the classic tale, "The Velveteen Rabbit," in two enchanting acts features the energetic and imaginative dancing of talented youngsters from the ODC children's program. Told from the perspective of a stuffed rabbit who wants nothing more than to become real, the story explores meaningful dualities appropriate for children and adults alike.

Where: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard at Third St., San Francisco

When: November 26 through December 12

Phone: (415) 978-2787

Cost: \$10-\$38

The Art of Interpretation: **San Francisco Ballet performs "Nutcracker"**

sfballet.org

On a chilly, starlit Christmas Eve in December 1944, San Francisco Ballet performed the very first "Nutcracker" ever seen in America. In celebration of the 60th Anniversary of that historical milestone in dance history, Helgi Tomasson unveils a stunning, all-new "Nutcracker."

Where: War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

When: December 17-31

Phone: (415) 865-2000

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Multidisciplinary

Sparkler Challenge Prize: **Traveling Jewish Theatre in partnership with Epic Arts and The Hub at the JCCSF present "The Bright River"**

atjt.com

"The Bright River [a mass transit tour of the afterlife]" is Jewish storyteller Tim Barsky's version of Dante's "Inferno." Fusing physical theater, hip-hop, folklore, beatboxing and live music from the Everyday Ensemble with Jess Ivry, Safa Shokrai, & Kid Beyond, this is a unique fusion, you won't want to miss.

Where: Traveling Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida St., San Francisco; and Julia



Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley
When: December 1 through January 1, 2005 (SF); January 5-16, 2005 (Berkeley)
Phone: (415) 285-8080
Cost: \$12-\$35; Discount tickets for students, seniors and groups of 5 or more. Wednesday and Thursday nights are pay-what-you-can.
Find out how you can win a pair of tickets to this event through the [Sparkler Challenge!](#)



Making Room for Art: **Opera San Jose performs "Tosca"**
operasj.org
 Next to Mozart, Puccini is America's favorite opera composer. When "Tosca" premiered in 1900, it was attacked by the public and critics for its violence and sadism but is now considered one of Puccini's most admired accomplishments.
Where: California Theater, 345 South First St., San Jose
When: November 20 through December 5
Phone: (408) 437-4450
Cost: Tickets start at \$60

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Music



The Jet Set: **Joshua Bell plays Tchaikovsky**
sfsymphony.org
 Known widely for his performance on the soundtrack to "The Red Violin," violinist Joshua Bell is back in the Bay Area, this time by reinventing one of the best-loved composers of all time Piotr Tchaikovsky, along with Italian conductor Roberto Abbado.
Where: San Francisco Symphony Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
When: December 8-12
Phone: (415) 864-6000
Cost: \$20-\$103

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New Media



Making Room for Art: **"Reality Check" at Zeum**
zeum.org
 Check out the latest hands-on experience at Zeum -- fun for all ages. Inspiring youth to share their unique perspectives on the world, "Reality Check" uses arts, media and technology. There will be 3 different phases: My Reality (10/2-11/14) Sound off about democracy, citizenship and social issues that matter most to you; Our Reality (11/16-1/16) Tell your stories, share your roots, and celebrate the people who shape your world; Virtual Reality (1/19-5/8) Travel the globe, envision the future, and bring imaginary worlds to life with hi-tech tools and special effects.
Where: 4th and Howard St., on the rooftop at Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco
When: Through May 2005
Phone: (415) 777-2800
Cost: \$7 adult, \$6 student and seniors, \$5 youth aged 4-18, free for Zeum members

Technophiles: **The Seeing Collection at the Exploratorium**
exploratorium.edu
 The boundaries of perception are challenged in the Exploratorium's long running "Seeing Collection." Adults and Children alike will enjoy an exhibit



where technology is used to vividly illustrate that there is more to the world than meets the eye.

Where: 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco

When: Through January 2005

Phone: (415) EXPLORE

Cost: \$12 adult; \$9.50 student, seniors, people with disabilities and youth aged 13-17; \$8 children aged 4-12; free for children 3 and under and for everyone on the first Wednesday of each month



Making Their Move: **Matt Alber on "American Pride"**

americanpridetv.com

The search for the first openly gay country superstar comes to cable television this summer, on a show with a fitting patriotic title, "American Pride." Join featured **Spark** artist [Matt Alber](#) as he competes to realize his dreams of fame and acceptance.

Where & when: Coming to cable television soon -- check their Web site for listings

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Theater



The Art of Interpretation: **The New Conservatory Theatre presents "Really Rosie"**

nctcsf.org

Carole King's songs for "Really Rosie" came from characters found in Maurice Sendak's books. It's a hot summer day in July on Brooklyn's Avenue P, and children in the neighborhood are bored, looking for something to do outside. The musical follows Rosie, who is a star just waiting to be discovered as she stages the pretend movie of her life -- a musical that's delightful for children and parents alike.

Where: 25 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

When: November 13 through December 30

Phone: (415) 861-8972

Cost: \$12 adults, \$9 youth, \$7 per young person for groups of 15 or more

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Visual Art

Legacies: **California Indian Museum and Cultural Center presents "Storytelling at Christmas"**

cimcc.org

Recently, the California Indian Museum has moved its operations to Santa Rosa and although their exhibitions are not open to the public yet, they are offering a free monthly lecture series (Tillie Hardwick Lecture Series). Check out this special holiday one with your family -- snacks are provided.

Where: 5250 Aero Dr., Santa Rosa

When: December 11 from 1:30pm-3:30pm

Phone: (707) 579-3004

Cost: Free

Legacies: **Crissy Field Center presents "Ohlone Portraits: Our Faces, Our Families, Our Stories"**

crissyfield.org

This community collaborative exhibit features life-size images and portraits of Ohlone people from the late 19th and early 20th centuries -- taking the viewer beyond myth and legend. Also features commentary of Ohlone descendants who continue to keep their traditions, stories and language alive in the Bay Area.

Where: 603 Mason St., Presidio National Park, San Francisco
When: November 7 through December 31; Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 9am-5pm
Phone: (415) 561-7752



Legacies: **The Marin Museum of the American Indian presents "Coast Miwok People"**

marinindian.com

The Marin Museum of the American Indian is dedicated to cultivating an awareness and understanding of Native American history and culture. The "Coast Miwok People" is a photographic exhibition of the Miwok people.

Where: Miwok Park, 2200 Novato Blvd., Novato

When: Museum hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am-3pm, Saturday and Sunday 12pm-4pm

Phone: (415) 897-4064

Cost: Free

Legacies: **Austen D. Warburton Native American Collection at the Triton Museum of Art**

tritonmuseum.org

This collection was closed to the public in 1997 due to conservation needs but the city of Santa Clara has made it available again. See a culmination of Austen Warburton's lifelong interest in the research and collection of Native American art and artifacts.

Where: 1505 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara

When: Permanent collection; Museum hours: Monday to Wednesday 11am-5pm, Thursday 11am-9pm, Friday to Sunday 11am-5pm

Phone: (408) 247-3754

Cost: \$5 general admission



Legacies: **Native Californian Cultures collection at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology**

hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu

Since its founding in 1901, a major focus of the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology has been the Native peoples of California. Today, with 260,000 catalogue entries, the museum preserves the world's largest and most comprehensive collection devoted to the region.

Where: 102 Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley

When: Permanent collection; Museum hours: Wednesday to Saturday 10am-4:30pm, Sunday 12pm-4pm

Phone: (510) 642-3682

Cost: \$4 general admission, free on Thursdays



Legacies: **Basket Weaving Demonstrations**

nps.gov/yose

Learn more about the cultural history of Yosemite's native Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Demonstrations of basket weaving, beadwork, and traditional games are presented.

Where: Ongoing 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch)

Phone: (209) 379-2321

Cost: Free



From Life: **William Eggleston's "Democratic Camera"**

sfmoma.org

As one of the pioneers of color photography, William Eggleston was also instrumental in establishing credibility for this art form. His photographs capture everyday life. The images on display in this Los Alamos series were taken in Memphis, Mississippi Delta, New Orleans, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and other parts of the American South and West.

Where: SFMOMA, 51 Third St., San Francisco

When: Through January 4, 2005

Phone: (415) 357-4000

Cost: \$10 adults, \$7 seniors, \$6 students, free for SFMOMA members and children 12 and under; half-price admission on Thursday evenings (6pm-9pm), free first Tuesday of each month

Up from the Street: **Punch Gallery presents "Curious Creatures"**

punchgallery.com

What are art toys? If you're curious to find out what falls under that category, check out "Curious Creatures" at Punch Gallery's 2nd Anniversary exhibition featuring art toys created by well-recognized artists as well as talent you'll see for the first time.

Where: 155 Tenth St., San Francisco

When: December 2 through January 2, 2005

Phone: (415) 522-5555

By Hand: **Craft Showcase 5: Annual Holiday Fundraiser featuring Northern California Contemporary Craft Artists**

mocfa.org

This annual group exhibition presents the recent artwork of more than 60 contemporary craft artists from Northern California, who are working in glass, clay, fiber, wood and metal. Through each purchase, buyers directly support local artists and the Museum of Craft & Folk Art's exhibition and education programs.

Where: Fort Mason Center, Landmark Building A, San Francisco

When: November 12 through December 28

Phone: (415) 775-0991

By Hand: **San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design presents "Dovetailing Art and Life: The Bennett Collection"**

sfmcd.org

Newly opened in October 2004, the San Francisco Museum of Craft+Design is offering free admission through 2004. Their first exhibit, "Dovetailing Art and Life: The Bennett Collection," documents the furniture maker Garry Knox Bennett and his wife's interpretation of the history of studio craft in the United States from the 1960s to the present.

Where: 550 Sutter St., San Francisco

When: Through January 30, 2005

Phone: (415) 773-0303



The Grey Eminences: **"Baja to Vancouver: The West Coast and Contemporary Art"**

wattis.org

This exhibition surveys recent art from the western edge of the United States, Canada, and Baja California, Mexico. Featuring thirty-three artists (including Spark featured artist **Chris Johanson**) using popular forms and genres -- landscape and portraiture, vernacular signage and music videos -- there is something for everyone.

Where: Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, Kent and Vicki Logan Galleries, California College of the Arts, 1111 Eighth St., San Francisco

When: September 23 through December 11

Phone: (415) 551-9210

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