

# Sacto Gallery Hosts '08 Olympic Art

## Special to The Union

The Art Foundry Gallery at 1021 R. St. in Sacramento will be the first location in the United States to host the 2008 Beijing Olympic Sculpture Exhibition displaying entries from over 80 countries and regions beginning on Oct. 9 and running through Oct. 22. Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo will head up the Host Committee.

Amongst the 2008 Beijing Olympic Landscape Sculpture Design contest medalists on display will be a piece from local artist Shray who is a featured artist at The Art Foundry. Shray's piece titled "Raising Tomorrow's Olympic Champions" was one of eight U.S. entries to make the finals and one of two American entries to be awarded the distinction of "Excellent Works."

"My piece honors parents worldwide who nurture the Olympic dream," said Shray, sharing the victory with Alan Osborne's Art Foundry team.

"Art is a bridge," said Osborne. "China, with its rich cultural heritage is embracing the universal language of art."

Shray found her inspiration for "Raising Tomorrow's Olympic Champions" while creating her new "Artist Nostalgia" series. In the series, she was working on a small rendition of "As One" where parents are holding a newborn baby in the air in celebration of new life and all of the potential it holds. She envisioned her monumental piece as an interactive sculpture that encourages children to honor their parents, reminds parents to uplift their children, and reinforces the power of Olympic dreams.

"Those dreams can be about achieving excellence in sports, or becoming a great

teacher, writer, poet, artist or parent. The dream is as individual as the dreamer," explained Shray.

A bronze sculptor, Shray is one of the few working artists today who employs the rare Subtractionist technique. Like Michaelangelo, who released the human form in stone, Shray unveils her forms in blocks of clay. The piece then goes through a complex 12-step process from the mold all the way to the final pouring of the bronze. Great care is taken in the creation of each limited edition bronze. Shray feels that before she will put her name on the bronze sculpture, it must be perfect. The finished work takes from six months to a year from the creation of clay to bronze.

"Not many people realize all it takes to create a bronze," says the artist. "The foundry is extremely important. I'm in control of my work and consider each work one of a kind and its own entity. I have great respect for those at the foundry who work on my pieces."

The Beijing Organizing Committee selected Alan Osborne, owner of the Art Foundry Gallery, to present this important event due to his International recognition as a sculptor specializing in public works, and the Foundry's reputation as one of

the premier bronze foundries in Northern California, with a history that goes back to 1979. The Art Foundry is an upscale venue with 2,300 square feet of exhibition space located in the historic warehouse district in downtown Sacramento, just blocks from the State Capitol. This neighborhood is an up and coming art corridor in the region. The Art Foundry shows fine art paintings, mixed media, and original ceramic and bronze sculpture in their main gallery. The focus of the gallery is contemporary art with a celebration of art's classical roots.

Artists from more than 80 countries and regions entered their art and judges from counties including China, England, the

United States, Italy, Germany, Austria and South Korea were part of the selection process. More than 2,300 pieces were submitted into the contest and 386 were chosen for recognition. The Olympic Sculpture Tour will include 65 award-winning works of art.

Director for the competition and renowned artist Yuan Xikun and General Secretary Zou Wen lead the International effort. Delegates from the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games will attend the opening ceremony on Oct. 9. There will also be a private sponsor reception at the Art Foundry that follows on Oct. 12. The sculpture exhibition will also be featured at Sacramento's monthly Second Saturday Artwalk on Oct. 13. At the Second Saturday Artwalk, dozens of Sacramento galleries host artist receptions and have live entertainment along with artist demonstrations.

Currently touring in China, the exhibition will move on to New York after its Sacramento run. For more information on The Art Foundry, visit [www.artfoundryinc.com](http://www.artfoundryinc.com).



## Giuliani Leads in California – For Now

### Special to The Union

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani continues to lead the field of Republicans running to capture this state's large number of delegates for the 2008 GOP presidential nominating convention.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, who was in a strong second position earlier this year, has dropped to fourth place as former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson have both made significant gains in GOP voter support.

In a statewide poll of voters likely to participate in this state's February 5, 2008 Republican presidential primary, Giuliani leads with 35 percent, Romney is at 14 percent, followed by Thompson at 13 percent and McCain at 9 percent. The combined vote for six others, each of whom receives between 1 percent and 3 percent of GOP preferences, is 9 percent. One in five voters (20 percent) are undecided.

When compared to a Field Poll survey conducted earlier this year, support for Giuliani's candidacy has remained virtually unchanged (34 percent in March 2007 and 35 percent now). On the other hand, Romney's support has doubled over this period from 7 percent to 14 percent. Preferences for Thompson,

who has not yet officially declared his candidacy, has also increased from 8 percent to 13 percent. By contrast, the proportion of likely GOP primary voters preferring McCain has dropped markedly – from 24 percent to 9 percent – over this period.

There are large differences in GOP voter preferences between those who have been closely following the presidential contest versus those who haven't. Statewide, one in three (33 percent) of likely GOP primary election voters say they are following campaign events "very closely." This compares to a little less than half (46 percent) who are following the race somewhat closely and 20 percent who are paying little or no attention to the election.

Among GOP voters paying the most attention to the race, Giuliani's lead over Romney and Thompson is much narrower than it is among voters who are not as engaged. For example, among voters who say they're following the race very closely, Giuliani's lead over Romney is just 13 percentage points and his lead over Thompson is just 15 points. By contrast, among those who are not closely attending to the contest, Giuliani holds a 31 percentage-point lead over Romney and a 22 point lead over Thompson.

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