

# ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## In the Details

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Jonathan Cohn with his wife, artist **Penelope Umbrico** in front of her work, 1,269 Sunset Pictures on Flickr, on display at the Orange County Museum of Art during the California Landscape into Abstraction show at the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach.

The Orange County Museum of Art celebrated the exhibit “California Landscape Into Abstraction,” with a members-only opening reception. Guests chatted with exhibiting artists as they sipped wine and champagne, and enjoyed passed appetizers for this special occasion.

Craig Wells, president of the museum's board of trustees, welcomed the art enthusiasts. “This exhibition is noteworthy because it's entirely from the collection of the Orange County Museum,” he said.

The evening benefited the museum and its work in the community. “It's the centerpiece of our education programs,” Wells said.

“California Landscape Into Abstraction” takes advantage of the museum's proximity to the extensive visual currency that is the landscape of Orange County and all of California – from sandy beaches to forest to cities. The show, which runs through March 9, presents art from Earth concepts that are literal, to abstractions reminiscent of Georgia O'Keeffe and even multimedia components, including an animated piece. “People think of Earth as being a generic color,” said Alan Sonfist, a New York artist whose work uses dirt and sand from across the United States. “Earth has color – each state has its own unique color.” After many trips into the museum's art collection storage, and going through many works shelf by shelf, Dan Cameron, chief curator and interim museum director, has put together an exhibit he's proud to display. “Thanks (to all) for helping support an institution that is blessed with such works,” he said.

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