

MARINA DEL REY • WESTCHESTER • SANTA MONICA • PLAYA DEL REY • PLAYA VISTA • MAR VISTA • DEL REY • VENICE

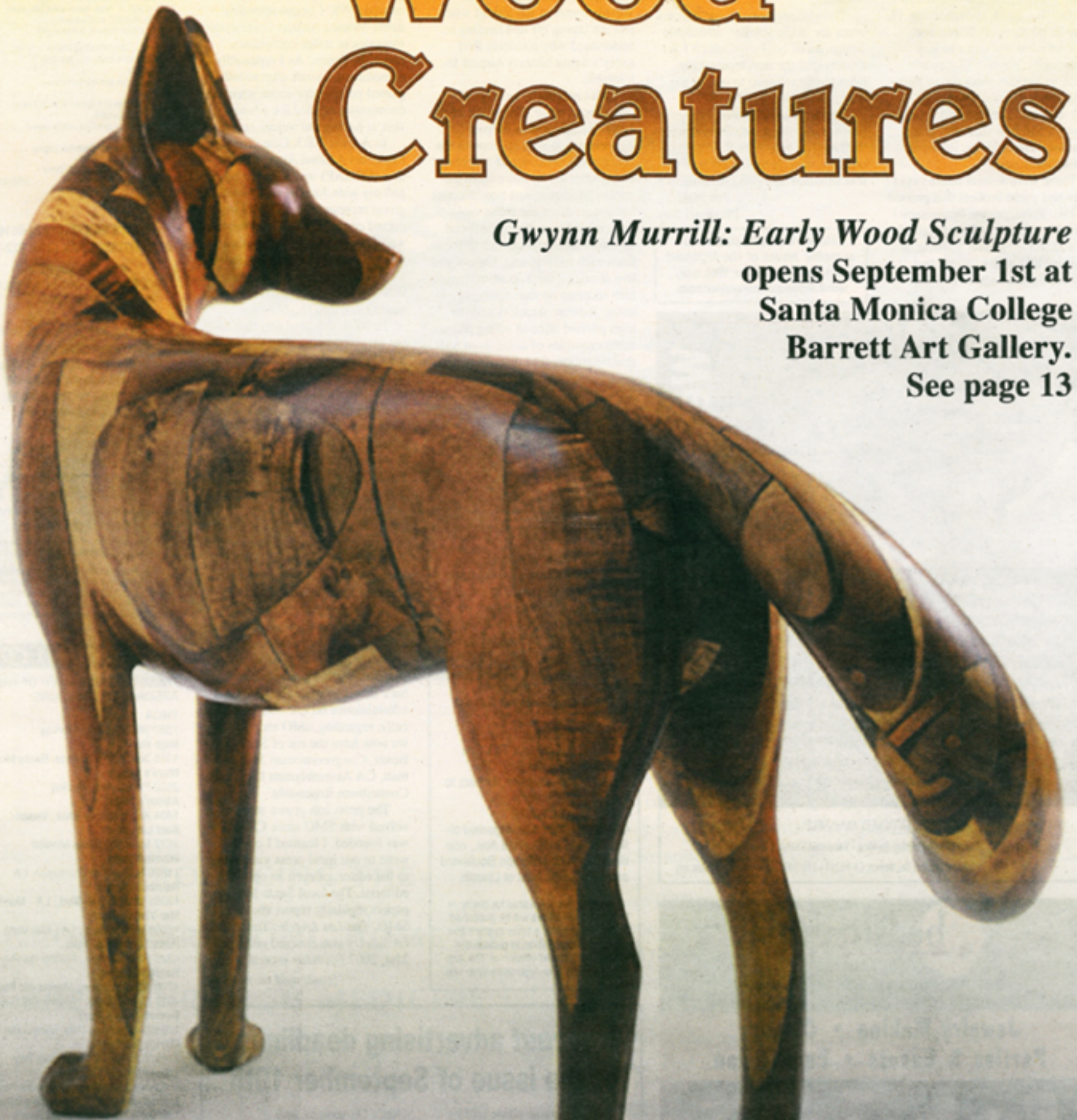
# The Argonaut

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## Wood Creatures

*Gwynn Murrill: Early Wood Sculpture*  
opens September 1st at  
Santa Monica College  
Barrett Art Gallery.  
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Coyote III  
a Koa wood sculpture by Gwynn Murrill

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SMC head football coach  
relieved of his duties  
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# What's On

## Cover story:

## 'Gwynn Murrill: Early Wood Sculpture' at SMC

The Santa Monica College Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery will present "Gwynn Murrill: Early Wood Sculpture," an exhibit of the artist's work from the early 1970s, beginning Tuesday, September 1st through Saturday, October 24th.

An opening reception is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, September 12th at the gallery located in the SMC Performing Arts Center at Santa Monica Boulevard and 11th Street. The gallery is open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

A number of the sculptures assembled for the exhibit were made in the early 1970s, as Murrill was finishing her bachelor's and master of fine arts degrees at UCLA. Although she was a painting major, Murrill said she took a sculpture class and was so intrigued by the use of laminated wood blocks in making a rocking horse that she continued with sculpting.

Eventually, she received her master's degree in painting, but she graduated with a refined body of sculpture large enough to have an exhibition at Rico Mizuno Gallery in Los Angeles in 1972. That launched the Los Angeles artist into a career as a sculptor, with a particular interest in the animal form, created with a unique balance between abstraction and representation, she said.

"My second rocking horse from 1971 will be in this SMC show, and I will also be showing several pieces that were completed for my second solo exhibition, which was at Nick Wilder Gallery (in Los Angeles) in 1977," Murrill said.

She noted that her career has taken her all over the world. Also included in the exhibit will be pieces from the mid 1980s, when she was working with Koa wood while in Hawaii.

The work displayed in the SMC show comes from her own collection, while several pieces



are on loan from private collectors, LA Louver Gallery in Venice, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Murrill said that working with wood blocks made it possible for her to make radical changes in the sculpture to tackle "sculptural problems I set up for myself."

"My interest in figurative sculpture is more about life and movement of the form as it is held by the surrounding space, rather than it is about the specific details of a certain individual," she explained. "Though I use photographs while working, I try to stay away from portraiture and pay more attention to the abstract qualities of the form of the animal."

Murrill has sculpted not only in wood, but also in marble, bronze, stone and ceramic.

Over her career, the sculptor has received many accolades including the Guggenheim Fellowship, a Prix di Roma Fellowship from the American Academy in Rome, a National Endowment Grant, and a purchase award from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Murrill's work is held by

many private collections and can be seen in a number of public commissions throughout the U.S. and across the globe.

The City of Obihiro, Japan installed seven of Murrill's deer sculptures along its main thoroughfares in 2003, and Los Angeles' Grand Hope Park is home to a collection of three of her coyotes, a hawk, and one snake.

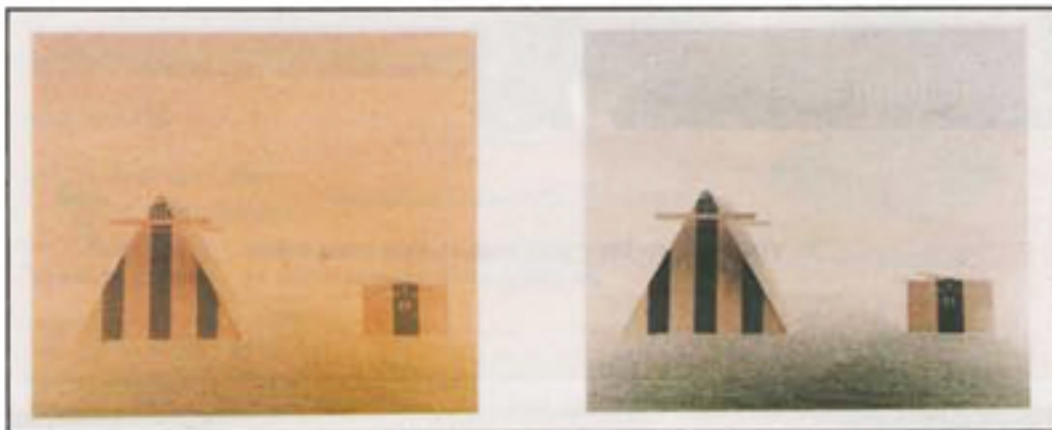
Information, (310) 434-3434.



WOOD SCULPTURES of a coyote (above) and rhinoceros head (inset) by artist Gwynn Murrill are among the pieces on display at the Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery starting September 1st.

(Below): *NIGHT AND DAY IN NJ* by John Montich is part of the photography exhibit at the Emeritus College Art Gallery.

## 'John Montich Photographs: 1989-2009' at SMC's Emeritus College Art Gallery



An exhibit of the abstract photography of John Montich, whose work focuses on close-ups of buildings and objects, will be presented at Santa Monica College's Emeritus College Art Gallery beginning Thursday, August 27th through Friday, October 9th.

The opening reception for "John Montich Photographs: 1989-2009" is scheduled from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 27th in the Emeritus College Art Gallery, on the first floor at 1227 Second St. in Santa Monica.

Parking is available next door in Santa Monica Public Parking Structure No. 2. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition, the Long Beach artist plans to present a slide lecture at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Sep-

tember 14th in Room 107 of Emeritus College.

The exhibit will consist of 13 images produced with techniques that include emulsion transfers, silver dye bleach and chromogenic photographic prints.

Montich says that discovering the horizon-less landscape started his fascination with abstraction. The former aerospace engineer says he then started to narrow his vision to the up-close point of view.

"The largest building is described by a small distinctive section," Montich says. "Small pieces of everyday ephemera are described with a minimum of background."

Montich has exhibited his photography in solo and group exhibitions for 20 years. As a

nationally recognized fine art photographer, his work can be found in many private and corporate collections across the country.

Exhibitions at the Armand Hammer Museum, Laguna Art Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Long Beach Museum of Art have included his photography. A recent solo exhibition at the University of La Verne's Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography surveyed his unique transfer images.

Cypress College, El Camino College, Long Beach City College and Porterville College have also featured his work. The Best of Photography Annual has published his award-winning images in several editions.

Information, (310) 434-4306 or [www.smc.edu/emertius/](http://www.smc.edu/emertius/).

## Jazz on the Lawn series concludes with singer-songwriter John West

Singer-songwriter John West will perform the final concert of this season's Jazz on the Lawn series outside Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St., from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, August 30th.

Louisiana native West, who recently gave a sold-out show at the Roxy on the Sunset Strip, arrives in Santa Monica from performances in New York and London. He says he creates soul without crooning, R&B without formula and pop without gloss.

His musical influences include Otis Redding, Cat Stevens, Jill Scott and Jack Johnson, and he

aims to combine jazz and soul with a bluesy undercurrent.

Information, [www.johnpeterwest.com/](http://www.johnpeterwest.com/).

Jazz on the Lawn is free to the public and parking is conveniently located at the Santa Monica Civic Center (free after 4 p.m.). Soft drinks and water are available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting the Virginia Avenue Park Teen Center, a youth arts and recreation center providing educational and cultural arts programs designed by teens for teens.