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**The Old Orange County Courthouse Hosts
HOBOS TO STREET PEOPLE:
ARTISTS' RESPONSES TO HOMELESSNESS FROM THE NEW DEAL
TO THE PRESENT**

[SANTA ANA, Calif.] – The Old Orange County Courthouse presents the exhibition “Hobos to Street People: Artists’ Responses to Homelessness from the New Deal to the Present.”

This timely exhibit features the works of 30 artists working over the last 75 years to document the tragedy of homelessness from the Great Depression to the present. Through painting, printmaking, photography, and mixed media, artists offer glimpses of life on the street.

Curator Art Hazelwood says that, “some of the artists in this exhibition personally experienced homelessness and poverty, some worked directly with organizations to combat poverty, but all of them felt that art could be used to focus attention on homelessness. The idea that art can have a function in society by engaging in a struggle for a better world, and that everyone should take an interest in the well-being of less fortunate people are the twin beliefs of the artists in this show.”

During the Great Depression government programs such as the Works Progress Administration funded artists to document what was happening in the country, including the widespread problem of homelessness. Following World War II artists’ shifted their energies elsewhere, but by the late 1970s with the rise of the modern era of mass homelessness many artists again began to focus on the poor as subjects.

Featured are works by New Deal era artists such as Dorothea Lange, Rockwell Kent, and Giacomo Patri, along with contemporary artists such as Sandow Birk, David Bacon, and Christine Hanlon.

According to art critic Marisa Nakasone, “The images in this exhibit are understandably powerful, shocking, and at times, controversial: these works were intended to stir emotion and incite action.”



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HOBOS TO STREET PEOPLE

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This exhibit will also feature stories of homeless people in Orange County, their struggles and their journey to find homes through community resources and programs. Opportunities for the community to volunteer with non-profit agencies that provide assistance to the homeless will also be highlighted.

"Hobos to Street People" was organized by the California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA) and funded by the James Irvine Foundation, LEF Foundation, and Fleishhacker Foundation.

The landmark Old Orange County Courthouse is located at 211 West Santa Ana Blvd. in downtown Santa Ana. The gallery is regularly open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For general information, call (714) 973-6607.

OC Parks

The OC Parks system encompasses regional, wilderness and historical facilities, as well as coastal areas throughout the County of Orange in California. Featuring nearly 60,000 acres of parkland, open space and shoreline, Orange County's award-winning parks and programs are enjoyed by millions of residents and visitors each year, in ways as diverse as the parks themselves.

OC Parks offers wilderness hikes. Campgrounds. World-class mountain biking. Nature centers. Nationally recognized historic sites. Fishing. Surfing. And the list goes on. Whether a visitor comes to jog or camp; whether a family holds a reunion at a park or meets friends at the beach, OC Parks offers everything you need to make every day a great one.

<http://www.ocparks.com>

OC Community Services

OC Community Services offers affordable housing opportunities for renters and homeowners; community revitalization for homeowners and unincorporated communities; and community services for special needs populations such as older adults, veterans, victims of domestic violence or hate crime, the unemployed, and the homeless. OC Community Services is the home of the Homeless Prevention Division which centrally coordinates the preservation and expansion of the County's Continuum of Care system for the at-risk and homeless populations. In addition to the Continuum of Care, Homeless Prevention's other programs include the Armory Emergency Shelter Program, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP), and Orange County's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. <http://www.occservices.org>

Hobos to Street People: Artists' Response to Homelessness from the New Deal to the Present

Opens on March 21, 2011 and remains on view until April 22, 2011.

Fee: FREE

Ages: All Welcome

Location: Old Orange County Courthouse. 211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701

Contact: (714) 973-6607

Website: <http://www.ocparks.com/oldcourthouse/>

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