

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ART REVIEW

2 excellent opportunities to see Ireland’s work

By Charles Desmarais

The opening this weekend of the David Ireland House marks a highly significant moment in the art history of San Francisco. Unfortunately, though, there may be some obstacles to experiencing that holistic work of art.

If you don’t already have tickets, you will have to wait some weeks: Tours are sold out into February, according to the website. The investment is worthwhile, but not insignificant: The tour takes 90 minutes and costs \$20 per person.

Meanwhile, there are two terrific opportunities to see the work of the artist sooner, and for free. The Walter and McBean Galleries of the San Francisco Art Institute presents “David Ireland” through March 26. And the artist’s longtime representative, Anglim Gilbert Gallery, will feature “Dumbball: David Ireland and His Circle,” Wednesday, Jan. 20, to Feb. 27.

River of concrete

The Art Institute show is the more ambitious of the two. It was organized by SFAI Vice President Hesse McGraw and the independent scholar Constance Lewallen, an expert on California art history and the author of an excellent book published last year by University of California Press, “500 Capp Street: David Ireland’s House.” (Full disclosure: In 2014, as then-president of SFAI, I approved the exhibition concept and budget, but I played no further role.)

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a re-creation of Ireland’s 1987 work “Smithsonian Falls, Descending a Staircase for P.K.” A stairway in the gallery ordinarily provides access to a second gallery on the floor above. But Ireland poured a river of concrete — three tons of it — down the 19 steps, blocking the stair.

This is, literally and physically, challenging art, both to artist and to audience. It is a waterfall turned to stone — nature frozen, a flow (of time? of life?) interrupted. Its title is a self-conscious reference to art that came before: to earthworks sculptor Robert Smithson’s 1969 series of giant “pours” of asphalt, glue and, yes, concrete; to conceptual art pioneer Marcel Duchamp’s scandalous “Nude Descending a Staircase (No. 2)” of 1912; to fellow Bay Area conceptual artist Paul Kos’ 1980 “Ramp,” an installation at the UC Berkeley Art Museum that challenged viewers to act, by trying to climb an increasingly steep and slippery curve from floor to ceiling.



San Francisco Art Institute 1987

“Smithsonian Falls, Descending a Staircase for P.K.” as it appeared at the S.F. Art Institute in 1987. The work has been reconstructed for the new exhibit.

“Smithsonian Falls” is paired at the center of the gallery with another work in concrete, the extraordinary “Angel-Go-Round” (1996). If “Falls” is nature stopped dead, this pile of concrete, human-scale figures are stricken classical demigods, over which a Christian angel triumphantly, preposterously spins.

Also included in the exhibition are more than a score of potent relics of the David Ireland House and a 1975 concrete “painting.” That work, “A Portion of: From the Year of Doing the Same Work Each Day,” is from the seminal series that preceded work on the house, setting a precedent for much what he did later.

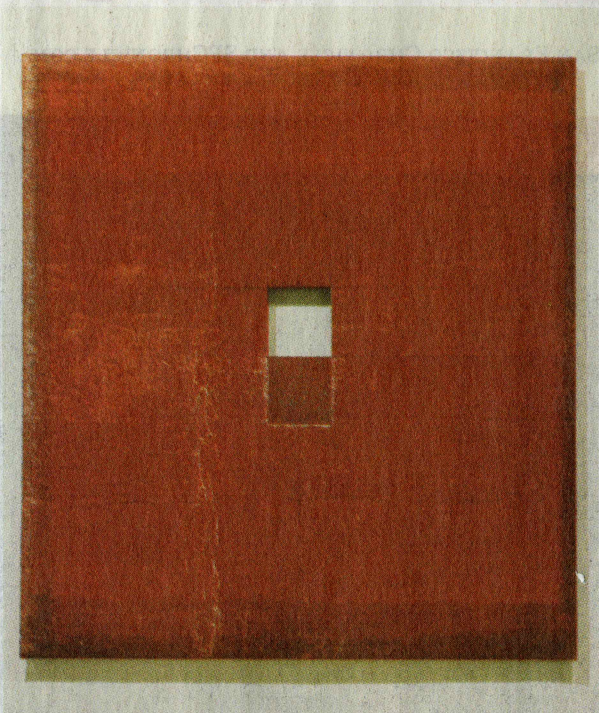
Influential colleagues

The exhibition at Anglim Gilbert will not open until next week, but judging from the checklist and works I viewed in storage, it will be packed with strong works by Ireland and by artists who knew him and traded ideas and influence. Among that circle are John Beech, Nayland Blake, Castaneda/Reiman, Terry Fox, Rebecca Goldfarb, Gonzalo Hidalgo, Ann Hamilton, Mildred Howard, Kos, Tony Labat, Tom Marioni, Gay Outlaw, David Ruddell, Mark Thompson and Amy Trachtenberg.

It is instructive to see which works are being shown in the commercial gallery context, and which at the nonprofit

SFAI. The Anglim Gilbert Gallery selections by Ireland are, in general, easier on the eye, domestic in scale and more complete unto themselves as works of art, where the works at the

institute are big and rangy or appear to be odd bits taken from the house’s larger context. The “dumbball,” central to the Anglim Gilbert exhibition, is one of the major themes of Ireland’s



Anglim Gilbert Gallery

A work by David Ireland from the Thanka series (circa 1974), on view at Anglim Gilbert Gallery.

David Ireland: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Through March 26. Walter and McBean Galleries, San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St., S.F. (415) 771-7020. www.sfai.edu.

Dumbball: David Ireland and His Circle: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Wednesday, Jan. 20-Feb. 27. Anglim Gilbert Gallery, 14 Geary St., S.F. (415) 433-2710. www.anglimgilbertgallery.com.

work, both in form and in idea. He made more of them than anyone seems to have counted: little spheres of concrete about the size of a softball, which he made by passing a lump of wet concrete from hand to hand for many hours, gradually forming it as it hardened. The meditative and repetitive aspects of these works — the work of their making — was

equal in importance to their look and substance. For that reason, they are the perfect summation of a career devoted to art as simply productive mortal life, ascendent even in its humility.

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ON TELEVISION

BRDCAST	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	The Big Bang (TV14)	The Big Bang (TV14)	Hell's Kitchen (TV14) (HD)	"18 Chefs Compete"	Second Chance (TV14) (HD)	"A Suitable Doner"	Ten O'Clock News (HD)	Sports Wrap (HD)	Golan (HD) "Shell Raisher"	High School USA!
3	(5:00) NFL Football (HD) NFC Divisional	NFC Divisional	News	Access Hollywood (TVPG)	Dateline NBC (TVG) (HD)	News (HD)	S.N.L. (N)			
4	Entertainment Tonight Weekend (TVPG)	KRON 4 News (TVG)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (TV14)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (TV14)	48 Hours (TVPG) Examine a subject from multiple angles.	KPIX 5 News (TVG)	(:35) Two and Half Men			
5	Judge Judy (TV14)	Judge Judy (TV14)	NCIS: New Orleans (TV14) (HD) "The Recruits"	Criminal Minds (TV14) (HD) "Outlaw"	Baking (HD) "Biscuits"	Austin City Limits				
6	Time Goes By	Time Goes By	Doc Mart "It's Good to Talk"	Brown "The Laws of Motion"	The Boat "The Big 1-2"	ABC7 News 11:00 p.m. (TVG) (HD)				
7	Jeopardy! (TVG)	Wheel of Fortune	★★★ The Social Network (2010, Biography) Rooney Mara, Jesse Eisenberg. (TV14) (HD)	(:55) Steves' Europe (TVG) "Milan and Lake Como"	(:40) Rick Steves' Europe (TVG) "Prague"	The Brain (TVPG) "What Is Reality?" Explore how the brain conjures the world.				
9	Rick Steves' Europe	(:35) Steves' Europe	★★★ The Social Network ('10, Bio) Jesse Eisenberg. (TV14) (HD)	Bay Area News (TVG)	Dateline NBC (TVG) (HD)	Bay Area News (TVG)	Sat. Night Live (HD) (N)			
10	Jeopardy	Wheel	★★★ The Social Network ('10, Bio) Jesse Eisenberg. (TV14) (HD)	The Boat	ABC 10 News (:35) Castle					
11	(5:00) NFL Football (HD) NFC Divisional T.B.A. vs Arizona (Live)	(:35) Bay Area Revelations "The Super Seven"	Bay Area News (TVG)	Dateline NBC (TVG) (HD)	Bay Area News (TVG)	Sat. Night Live (HD) (N)				
13	NCIS: New O. "The Recruits"	Crim. Minds (HD) "Outlaw"	48 Hours (TVPG)	13 News 10 p.m. (TVG) (HD)	CBS 13 News (TVG) (HD)					
14	P. Luche	Noticiero	Sabadazo (TVPG)	Sal y pimienta (TVG)	P. Luche	Noticiero				
20	ABC7 News (TVG)	Community	Bones (TV14) "The Girl in the Gator"	ABC7 News (TVG)	The Office "Health Care"	Anger Management	Anger Management	To Be Announced		
22	Amer. Test Kitchen (HD) (N)	Newshour. (HD) (N)	The Lawrence Welk Show (TVG) "This Colorful World"	Austin City (HD) "Ryan Adams/ Shakey Graves"	Musical Gone Public (TVG) (HD) "Tom Rigney"	Live From the Artists Den (TVG) (HD) "Damien Rice"				
26	News	Bay Area	Go Fighting (TVPG)	Taiwan Elec.	News	Who's Smart (TVPG)	Paid			
28	STH Songs	Stream	Life Is a Miracle ('04, Rom) Slavko Stimac.	CTV Biblical	PrayTactical	Musical in Love	Love Earth	Expedition		
32	Journal	In Focus	Classic Arts	Classic Arts	Journal	In Focus	Journal	Kino (TVG)		
36	★★ Cliffhanger (1993, Thriller) Janine Turner, Michael Rooker, Sylvester Stallone. (TVM)	★★ Vantage Point (2008, Action) Sigourney Weaver, Matthew Fox, Dennis Quaid. (TV14)								
38	Diomedes: El Documental	Diomedes	Magician's Code	La mission						
40	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Hell's Kitchen (TV14) (HD) "18 Chefs Compete"	Second Chance (TV14) (HD) "A Suitable Doner"	Fox40 News (TVG) (HD)	Golan (HD) "Shell Raisher"	High School USA!			
42	En concierto			Historias Delirantes	Historias Delirantes	Secretos	Secretos			
43	Clos.Truth	PianoGuy	Infinity Hall Live!	Center (HD) "Zakk Wylde"	G. Trekker (HD) "Myanmar"	WorldLit	Aviators			
44	2 Broke Girls (TVPG)	2 Broke Girls (TVPG)	Rizzoli & Isles (TV14) "Cuts Like a Knife"	The Closer (TV14) "Death Warrant"	KPIX 5 News (TVG) (HD)	Mike & Molly (TVPG)	Family Guy	Family Guy		
46	Modern Fam	Loves Ray	NCIS: New O. "The Recruits"	Crim. Minds (HD) "Outlaw"	48 Hours (TVPG)	News 5/46	Bl. Bloods			
48	(6:00) Que noche (HD)	America's Funniest (HD)	Que noche con Angelica y Raul! (HD)			Titulare (HD)	Videos asom.			
50	(6:20) MFL Fútbol Amer./Atls (Live)	Boxeo (TVG)		Al Extremo "Fin de Semana"	Escape Perfecto					
54	(6:00) Psychiatrist Couch (TVPG)	Smart Fats to Out Smart Aging with Dr. Steven Masley (N)		Sweet Revenge: Turning the Tables on Processed Food (TVPG) Dr. Lustig discusses how to adopt a low sugar diet.						
65	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Dirty"	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Flight"	Law&O: SVU "Spectacle"	Law&O: SVU (HD) "Pursuit"	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Bully"					
66	Si yo fuera diputado ('55, Com) Cantinflas. (TVPG) (HD)	El tesoro perdido del gran cañon ('08, Adv) (HD)		Boxeo (TVG) (HD)						
CABLE	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
A&E	The First 48	First 48 (HD) "Knock Knock"	The First 48: Mirac. (N)	First 48 "Live to Tell" (N)	The First 48 "Bad Company"					
AMC	(5:00) Enemy of the State	★★★ Top Gun ('86, Act) Kelly McGillis, Tom Cruise. (TVPG) (HD)	★★ Red Dawn ('84, Act) (HD)							
BBC	(5:00) ★★★ Hook	ST:TNG "A Matter of Time"	Star Trek: NG "New Ground"	ST:TNG "Hero Worship"	Star Trek: NG "Violations"					
BET	Good Deeds (2012, Comedy/Drama) Thandie Newton, Gabrielle Union, Tyler Perry. (TV14)	From the (N)	Criminals at Work (HD)	(:45) Criminal						
BRAV	VanderR "Fully Engaged"	Beverly "Hamptons, 90210"	Beverly Hills "Pretty Mess"	★★ In Her Shoes ('05, Dra) Cameron Diaz. (TV14)						
CNBC	Under Boss "Loehmann's"	Boss "Lucky Strike Lanes"	Under Boss "Mack Trucks"	Boss "The Dwyer Group"	Paid	Paid				
CNN	Anthony Bourdain (TVG)	Anthony Bourdain (TVG)	Anthony Bourdain (TVG)	Anthony Bourdain (TVG)						
COM	Seriously Funny (HD)	Kevin Hart (TV14) (HD)	K. Hart/Pain (TVMA) (HD)	★★★ The Change-Up ('11, Com) Jason Bateman. (HD)						
CSN	Post-game	SportsNet	NCAA Basketball Loyola M. vs S. Clara (Live)	Inside Club.	SportsNet	WPT Poker				
DISC	Survival (HD) "Fire and Ice"	Myth "Tanker Crush" (N)	Survival (HD) "Swamped"	Survival "Out of the Clouds"	Survival "Road to Nowhere"					
DISN	(6:10) Wreck-It Ralph (HD)	★★★★ The Incredibles ('04, Ani) Craig T. Nelson. (HD)	Mickey	Lab Rats	Best Friends	Underc. (HD)				
E!	(5:30) The Proposal (HD)	★★★ Sex and the City ('08, Com) Kim Cattrall, Sarah Jessica Parker. (TVMA) (HD)		★★★ Sex and the City (HD)						