Library Gallery shines in the ‘Afterglow’

A 40-year-old West Coast art movement that is still inspiring artists is explored in “Afterglow: Rethinking California Light and Space Art,” a free exhibit running Dec. 2-Feb. 25 in the Sacramento State Library Gallery.

Curated by Melissa Feldman, a writer and correspondent for Art in America, the exhibit identifies California’s brand of minimalism developed in the late 1960s and ’70s as a leading influence on the current generation West Coast artists.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An opening reception will be held 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the gallery.

Following the lead of artists such as James Turrell, Robert Irwin and Larry Bell, the artists in the exhibit present their work as inquiries into perception and the nature of seeing, often deploying abstract optical effects.

“The works in various media – installation, painting, photography, video and sculpture – invite interactivity, functioning primarily as catalysts for the viewer’s individual experience,” says Feldman. The artists spark this experience through the use of materials such as mirrors, fluorescent marker and paint mixed with crystals.

Featured artists include Gina Borg, Laurie Reid, Claude Collins-Stracensky and Thomas Akawie.

“Overall, the works encourage slowed-down and sustained looking, an antidote to these times of tweeting and texting,” says Feldman.

“Afterglow” is a traveling exhibition organized by the Wiegand Gallery, University of Notre Dame de Namur. The exhibit is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog published by the Wiegand Gallery and which includes an essay by Feldman.
For more information on the exhibit, call the Library Gallery at (916) 278-4189.
For media assistance, call Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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