



The Walt Disney Family Museum Presents
Looking Inward: Painting a Journey

Bay Area Seniors Encouraged to Use Artwork and Imagination to Relive Memories

San Francisco, Ca, August 23, 2017 – [The Walt Disney Family Museum](#) is excited to introduce its newest exhibition this fall, *Looking Inward: Painting a Journey*. The exhibition will present a diverse collection of artwork as part of a rare outreach project centered around art-making activities for underserved seniors. On view from September 28, 2017 to January 8, 2018, the exhibit features art created by the residents of three Bay Area senior care facilities: [Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay](#), [Pacifica Senior Living Mission Villa](#), and [The Curry Senior Center](#). *Looking Inward: Painting a Journey* explores the intersection of self reflection and imagination for the senior participants, many of whom live with memory disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

Participating artists are encouraged to draw inspiration from Eyvind Earle's work on view in a concurrent exhibition, *Awaking Beauty: The Art of Eyvind Earle*. Earle is best known for work on Disney classics such as *Sleeping Beauty*, *Peter Pan*, and *Lady and the Tramp*. When questioned about his art, Earle said, "[I]f I close my eyes, I see the finished painting before I start it....It's as though I see it for a second and a half, then it fades and I have just the memory. Once the image is planted, I begin to paint." Like Earle, the contributing artists for *Looking Inward* use their experiences and emotions to visualize their personal journeys. Museum representatives visited partner facilities regularly to offer ongoing instruction and artistic support.

"We're honored to be able to partner with these local organizations, and the communities they serve, for our most recent outreach exhibition," said Antonia Dapena-Tretter, School and Outreach Manager for The Walt Disney Family Museum. "These individuals all have unique life experience and now have the opportunity to share these moments and feelings through their artwork. With both abstract and figurative works, *Looking Inward* represents various aspects of their collective journey, on view for the museum's broad audience."

According to the Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, afflicts an estimated 5.5 million Americans. In California alone, there are over 610,000 individuals with memory disorders, which inspired The Walt Disney Family Museum to partner with local organizations in supporting these individuals.

“The Pacifica Legacies program is designed to support an individual’s feelings of security and belonging with activities, interests and cognitive abilities,” said Karen Nickolai, Executive Director of Pacifica Senior Living. “Our partnership with The Walt Disney Family Museum for *Looking Inward* is a valuable collaboration to enhance the mission of our core program.”

Looking Inward: Painting a Journey will be on view at The Walt Disney Family Museum in the lower lobby. The exhibition is second in a series taking precedent from the vision of The Walt Disney Family Museum’s founder, Diane Disney Miller, who championed arts access as a vital component of the museum’s commitment to community engagement. In 2016, the museum presented *Transformations: Creativity from the Inside Out*, celebrating artists with disabilities.

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***Looking Inward* Partner Organizations**

ASEB

ASEB (Alzheimer’s Services of the East Bay) is a nonprofit community organization in California that provides services for individuals with dementia as well as for their families. Since 1989, ASEB has been providing Adult Day Care, Family Support, and Education and Community Outreach Services, primarily in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. An economical alternative to full-time residential or in-home care, ASEB is committed to enabling individuals to remain at home for as long as possible, and to avoid premature or inappropriate institutionalization.

PACIFICA SENIOR LIVING MISSION VILLA

Pacific Senior Living, a division of Pacifica Companies founded in 1978, has communities throughout California and several other states. Pacifica Senior Living Legacies Memory Care program provides those with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia or other forms of memory loss with the support, care and respect they deserve to continue living a fully enriched life. Each resident receives a personalized care plan that is custom-tailored by our compassionate staff. Pacifica Senior Living also has a Music & Memory program which is a unique neuroscience research music program that specializes in Alzheimer’s and dementia care, which may store temporarily, often lost or failed memories.

THE CURRY SENIOR CENTER

In the heart of San Francisco, Curry Senior Center has been a leader and a lifeline to seniors for more than 40 years. Right in their own neighborhood, seniors can easily access a wide range of essential services through Curry, from health care to housing and everything in between: it is comprehensive care in a single setting.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Walt Disney Family Museum presents the fascinating story and achievements of Walt Disney, the man who raised animation to the level of fine art, transformed the film industry, tirelessly pursued innovation, and created a global yet distinctively American legacy. Opened in

October 2009, the 40,000-square foot facility features the newest technology along with a vast collection of historic materials and artifacts to bring Disney's achievements to life, myriad interactive galleries presenting early drawings and animation, movies, music, listening stations, a spectacular model of Disneyland, and much more. The museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in the scenic Presidio of San Francisco.

The Walt Disney Family Museum has created many world-class exhibitions, such as *Disney and Dalí: Architects of the Imagination*; *MAGIC, COLOR, FLAIR: the world of Mary Blair*; and *Water to Paper, Paint to Sky: The Art of Tyrus Wong*, several of which have traveled to other museums around the world. The most recent, *Awaking Beauty: The Art of Eyvind Earle*, is the eighteenth original exhibition originated by the museum since 2012. Also open at this time is *Deja View: The Art of Andreas Deja*, on view through October 9, 2017.

Hours: 10am to 6pm, Wednesdays through Monday; closed on Tuesdays and the following public holidays: January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25. Early closure at 4pm on December 24 and December 31.

Tickets: Museum admission is free for members and children under 5
General admission + special exhibition: \$35 adults, \$30 seniors and students, \$15 youth ages 6 to 17
General admission: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors and students, and \$15 youth ages 6 to 17

Where: The Presidio of San Francisco, 104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94129

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