

Datebook

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE AND SFCHRONICLE.COM | Saturday, December 12, 2015 | Section E ★★★★★



Jim Campbell and Jane Rosen

"Coffee Stains" (2015), by Jim Campbell and Jane Rosen, combines ink, coffee and wash on a glass panel with electronics.

CHARLES DESMARAIS *Art*

Confronting barriers posed by technology

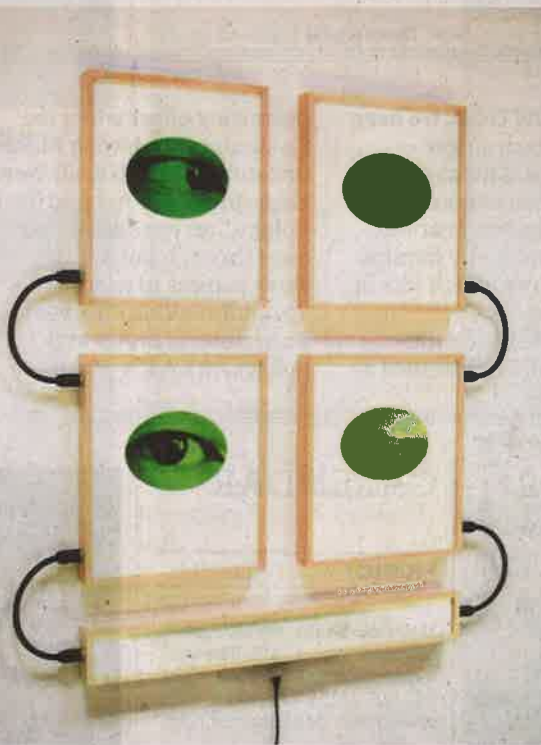
S.F., San Jose exhibitions struggle to create emotional connections

Jim Campbell's mini-survey exhibition at San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art reveals the romantic side of high-tech art. When did engineering become so tenderhearted?

Alongside Janet Cardiff's soul-stirring "The Forty Part Motet," at Fort Mason's new Gallery 308, Campbell's work prompts us to wonder whether technology, in the hands of the right artists, might reveal as much about our inner selves as it does the external world.

Campbell is a widely respected San Francisco artist whose best-known works (a short introductory video can be found at <https://youtu.be/4x48aCX1uK8>) include large light constellations presented in the trees of New York's Madison Square Park (2010-11), hung high in the atrium of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2011-12) or ribboned across the ceiling at the San Diego airport (2010-13). These glimmering installations of pulsing LEDs, visually attractive and

Desmarais continues on E2



Alan Rath

"Four Eyes" (2006), by Alan Rath, is on display at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in S.F.



CAILLE MILLNER

Internment: It's still just as terrible an idea

So here we are. Fifteen years into the new century, and we've got to remind our fellow Americans that banning and interning entire groups of people is a terrible idea.

Maybe because I grew up in San Jose, close to Hirabayashi Drive and Korematsu Court, I thought we'd all agreed that the Japanese American relocation and internment program was a horrible decision. I thought we remembered that it ruined lives, destroyed families, resulted in the devastation of entire communities.

Officially, we did remember this — in 1988, then-President Ronald Reagan signed legislation that provided an apology and individual payments of about \$20,000 to the surviving 60,000 Americans of Japa-

This is what needs to be done: It needs to be said, again and again, that the Japanese internment program was a disaster in every way.

nese ancestry who were interned in government camps during World War II.

The camps, by the way, weren't fun summer camps. Families lived in small cells with no privacy, and the camps were surrounded by barbed wire.

Some of the camps, like Manzanar, are now open to the public. If you go there, you'll notice the peculiar bleakness for which many of the sites were chosen — desert, dust and isolation. It's the sort of place where civilizations have historically sent their criminals, and it's a national shame that we treated our citizens that way.

The congressional commission whose investigation led to the official apology wrote in its final report that the program was "a grave injustice," motivated by nothing more than "racial prejudice, war hysteria and the failure of

Millner continues on E8

SEEN *By Tony Bravo*

A new generation of queens keeps spirit of drag alive