

# Chevron Art Gallery



Lobby, 555 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **THE DREAMBUILDERS OF CALIFORNIA**

The Chevron Gallery  
555 Market Street, San Francisco  
April 9 - May 25, 1984  
Monday through Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

THE DREAMBUILDERS OF CALIFORNIA are unusual artists who create amazing environments adorned with painting and sculpture and often composed of discarded materials such as empty bottles, hubcaps, pencils, shells, and scrap wood. California is just one of many states where "folk artists" build such personal, charming, and impressive worlds.

This exhibition offers a colorful moment from eight California environments, documented by photographs and assemblages from the sites. Each folk art environment is a handmade personal space developed by "artists" who are primarily elderly men and women. Each artist displays a primitive and naive quality in his or her creation--whether it is a pencil tree, a doll hewn from driftwood and clothed in discarded clothes, or flowers cut with a handsaw from plywood. The environments are usually developed without formal plans and tend to be monumental in scale and in multiplicity of components.

The eight exhibited California sites are among the 300 folk art environments scattered throughout America which have been discovered, documented, destroyed or preserved. Identifying labels in this exhibit will inform viewers of the status of the displayed sites and their locations in Northern and Southern California. Represented in THE DREAMBUILDERS OF CALIFORNIA are: Simon Rodia's Watts Towers, Grandma (Tressa) Prisbrey's Bottle Village, Litto Damonte's Hubcap Ranch, Calvin and Ruby Black's Fantasy Doll Show at Possum Trot, Sam Darling's House of 1000 Paintings, Romano Gabriel's sculpture garden, John the Trapper and Art Beal.

In addition, The World of Oil Theater, 555 Market Street, will present a series of folk art films. The exhibition and films are a tribute to California's own DREAMBUILDERS, allowing us an unusual experience -- to appreciate an American tradition which has been rarely acknowledged, understood or respected.

The exhibit is presented by Art Programs, Inc. of San Francisco and Los Angeles, and curated by John Turner. For further information, please call (415) 552-1734.