

Arcadian's "Bug Art" in Armory Art Show

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Longtime resident of Arcadia, Steven R. Kutcher, known around the world as "The Bug Man of Hollywood," for his work with insects in movies and television, has created a new form of art—"bug art"—and been named Artist in Residence at the Armory Center for the Arts, in Pasadena, as part of a larger, three-month exhibition, beginning this week.

Inspired perhaps by once having made a fly walk through ink and leave inky footprints for a Steven Spielberg production, Kutcher created his bug art: painting done by insects tracking "gouache," opaque watercolor, across a damp paper surface, under the guidance of the artist. Kutcher uses his knowledge of art, acquired through personal study, to design compositions and to select the colors that he carefully applies to the tarsi (feet) and abdomens of his "living brushes." And Kutcher uses his knowledge of the science of entomology, acquired by earning a Master of the Arts degree and by his lifelong interest in insects, to manipulate the movements of his six-legged collaborators.

The truly unique, typically abstract, often mesmerizing patterns of line, color, and form that result have not only captivated viewers in informal showings and in a formal exhibition in

northern California, earlier this year, but have also won the praise of serious artists and art critics.

Later this year, Kutcher's bug art will be among a select group of pieces in an exhibition touring through Europe.

Closer to home, you may see some of the great variety of his work—as diverse as the insects with which he creates the paintings—in a room dedicated to Kutcher's work, as Artist in Residence, at the Armory, in Pasadena. In addition to his bug art, and a continuous DVD presentation of his background and creative process (which will eventually air on Pasadena 56), there will be selections from his extensive collection of the world's most fascinating and beautiful insects as well as displays of "cultural entomology"—the influence of insects in such diverse fields as fine art, music, literature, and even advertising.

Kutcher's installation will be part of a larger exhibition of artwork inspired by insects entitled "Bugology," showing at the Armory from February 25 through May 21. The official opening reception will be on March 10, from 6 to 10 p.m., as part of Pasadena's semiannual Art

Night, with galleries open and shuttles running all around town.

For more information about Kutcher and his art, you may visit

<http://home.earthlink.net/~bugart>; for the "Bugology" exhibit, contact the Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103, (626) 792-5101,

<http://www.armoryarts.org>; and for Art Night, visit <http://www.artnightpasadena.org>.