

Painting the town ready for murals

West Sacramento museum installs four Piazzoni pieces that a San Francisco facility didn't want.

By Patricia Beach Smith
BEE ARTS CRITIC

More than a half-century after they were painted and several years after their controversial removal from the former San Francisco Main Library, four murals by artist Gottardo F.P. Piazzoni have a new home — in West Sacramento.

Piazzoni's "Night," "The Mountain," "Dawn," and "The Forest" were installed Thursday in the new 5,000-square-foot ArtSpace in the California State Museum Resource Center at 2505 Port St., West Sacramento.

"Artist Gregory Kondos got a hint that they were taking them (a set of 14 Piazzoni murals) down and that they didn't know

where to put them," said Burnett Miller, former Sacramento mayor and a Sacramento businessman who is also chairman of the California Capitol Historic Preservation Society (CCHPS).

The four murals are on long-term loan to the CCHPS from their owners, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The mission of the CCHPS, a nonprofit support group founded during the restoration of California's Capitol 20 years ago, is to bring antiques, paintings such as the Piazzoni murals and other art objects to the state Capitol area for display in public areas.

"There was a big controversy over the 14 murals in the library (now the Asian Art Museum) because people said they should stay where they were. But the Asian Art Museum didn't want them, and the cost to remove them was high," Miller explained. "Finally, 10 of them were given to the de Young Museum. Greg got in touch with me and said there should be some place in Sac-

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Workers adjust a Gottardo F.P. Piazzoni mural into exact position in the gallery of the State Museum Resource Center. This one is titled "The Forest." Several others by the artist remain in San Francisco.



From left, Chris Botta; Jim Alkons of Northern California Art Conservators; and Gary Dinneen hoist the "Point Lobos" mural into place at CSUMB on Monday.

ORVILLE MYERS/The Herald

Fort Ord mural will be revealed again to the public

By SYLVIA MOORE
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In 1995, art thieves damaged and nearly fled with a piece of Fort Ord history. Alison Stilwell Cameron's mural, "Point Lobos," which once graced the walls of Stilwell Hall, then was painstakingly restored for four years.

On Wednesday, the public will finally be able to enjoy the restored piece for the first time.

The mural is now on permanent loan to CSU-Monterey Bay and will be dedicated at a public ceremony hosted by university, local government and Army officials. Several members of the Stilwell family will also attend.

The 7-foot by 11-foot mural will hang inside the lobby of the University Center.

Alison Stilwell Cameron, the youngest of Gen. Joseph Stilwell's three daughters, painted the mural in 1942 as part of a

Works Progress Administration project. The mural depicts the cypress trees of Point Lobos State Reserve overlooking Monterey Bay. Cameron's brush strokes are in the sweeping style of Chinese traditional painting, reflecting the training she received while growing up in China. She studied under two well-known Chinese painters, Prince Pu Ju and Yu Fei-an.

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If you go

- What: Dedication of Point Lobos mural.
- When: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.
- Where: University Center, Building 29, Sixth Avenue, CSUMB.
- Cost: Free.
- Parking: Free in Lot 29.
- Map and directions: www.csUMB.edu
- Information: 582-3695.