

**Contact:** Muara Johnston, assistant director (805) 543-8562 [www.sloma.org](http://www.sloma.org)

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## **ROBERT BURRIDGE: Impure Thoughts**

**June 1 – July 22, 2012 at the Museum of Art**

(San Luis Obispo, CA) Robert Burridge's sinfully good drawings are on view in the Museum of Art's Gray Wing in a new exhibit titled IMPURE THOUGHTS, June 1 – July 22, 2012. An opening reception to meet Mr. Burridge will take place on June 1, 6–9 pm (in conjunction with Art After Dark).

The concept for this large installation of drawings in chalk, ash, pastels and powders stems from Catholic grade school, when Mr. Burridge was taught that impure thoughts were a bad thing and would assure his place in hell. This simplistic view of the world was nonetheless confusing to the young Robert. How can a thought be a sin? How can you control your thoughts?

This parochial view of eternal damnation stayed with Mr. Burridge until art college where his exposure to the frisky frescoes of Pompeii, erotic Hindu temple art, Ingres and Delacroix paintings of Turkish baths and Assyrian courts exploded into his burning thoughts. Those early salacious images and erotically charged drawings are central to his inspiration for the charcoal drawings found in IMPURE THOUGHTS. The difference between those early masterpieces and his current drawings is that there is nothing really explicit in his new interpretations. It is the overall erogenous feel of the work that excites the viewer. Intentionally, there are no clear, direct images of human activity. Rather, Mr. Burridge allows the viewer to experience intimacy through the mastery of the medium. The viewer not only looks at the work, but, is engaged by its strong lines, movement and texture.

Mr. Burridge shares, "The sensual process of creating these drawings using the sensory joy of the medium; soft pastel sticks, powdered charcoal and pigments and handmade Japanese Kozo paper, were all a part of the romantic and passionate relationship between my work and me. The tactile experience of having the materials crumble and fall apart as I rubbed them into the creamy paper, not only validated my expression, but assured me that the impure thoughts I was having were a good and healthy thing."

Robert Burridge is an award-winning Industrial Designer who, after twenty-five years in the corporate design world decided to focus on painting everyday. He is a celebrated, contemporary painter, a contributing author to artists' magazines and publisher of his own books and instructional DVDs. Mr. Burridge attributes his success to his early education at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia and his stint as an adjunct professor at Cooper Union School for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York City, where he taught typography and film production.

Mr. Burridge is the Honorary President of the International Society of Acrylic Painters and a Signature Member of both the Philadelphia Water Color Society and the ISAP. His honors include the prestigious Crest Medal for Achievement in the Arts and Franklin Mint awards. His artwork hangs in the permanent collections of international embassies, corporate galleries, art colleges, and entertainment industry offices. He is featured in galleries in Santa Fe, Austin, Cambria and Key West. Mr. Burridge's studio is located in Arroyo Grande and he teaches classes at the Museum of Art and other national and international institutions. His website is [www.robertburridge.com](http://www.robertburridge.com)

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and exhibiting the visual arts. Located at 1010 Broad Street, on the west end of Mission Plaza. Hours are 11 – 5 daily. Closed Tuesdays. Free admission, donations appreciated.

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