

SAN DIEGO ART INSTITUTE



It's amazing, said one volunteer, to see how much art gets "ripped off the walls" once the 'C-Note' sale begins. These enthusiasts eyed the offerings yesterday during a preview at the San Diego Art Institute. The sale begins this evening at 5. *Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune photos*

'C-Note' art sale



'I'm Home' by D. Goth was one of the offerings presented during yesterday's 'C-Note' preview. Original art goes for \$100, \$200 and \$300.

Where: The San Diego Art Institute in Balboa Park
When: Today at 5 p.m. (previews 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Sale runs through Dec. 5.

What: Fourteen-year museum tradition of promoting works by living artists.

'C-Note' tradition is real off-the-wall

Art Institute sponsors semiannual sales mayhem

By Jeanette Steele, STAFF WRITER

Deal-crazy shoppers have been known to line up for Christmas sales at Macy's. There's usually a mob waiting for a Harry Potter book release and for the latest, greatest Microsoft Windows product.

But art?

Yes, art.

At Balboa Park today, if tradition holds, a line will start forming outside the San Diego Art Institute in the early afternoon. About 100 people will wait for a chance to pay \$100 to \$300 for original works by regional artists.

"It's a little bit of mayhem when the doors open," said Steve Martel, a San Franciscan who frequents the Art Institute's semiannual sales.

Martel, like other art enthusiasts, was scoping

previewed member work yesterday, and the preview continues today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The doors reopen at 5 p.m. for the sale.

"It's amazing how much art gets ripped off the walls in the first half hour," said Terry Trevino, a San Diegan who volunteers to staff the sale events. "It warms you to see people so enthusiastic for art."

The Art Institute's "C-Note" sales are a 14-year tradition at the museum whose mission is to promote living artists. Any of its 600 members can submit paintings and sculptures to be sold. Half the proceeds go to the artist, half to the institute.

It's a chance, said executive director Timothy Field, for all his member-artists — from rank beginners to professional, working artists — to be exhibited in a gallery for possible sale.

That's not so easy to come by. The pieces in the institute's regular exhibitions are chosen by professional artists and critics, so gaining entry