

ARTSCENE

May, 2006

Guest curator Meg Cranston chose an appropriate site, UC Riverside's newly relocated Sweeney Gallery, to bring attention to the work of eight artists dedicated to examining the premise that art can promote positive transformation in society. In a bold move, architect Peter Zellner integrated the gallery into a future of urban redevelopment with this revitalization of an early 20th century bank building in the heart of downtown Riverside's pedestrian mall. The artists who comprise *People for a Better Tomorrow* began instigating social interaction with their neighbors via "take something / leave something" [a work by the artist collective Finishing School]. The object and data exchanges were activated at several local establishments as well as the gallery site. Everylovely Lightingheart's motion sensitive drum and The Center for Tactical Magic's ice cream unit (a mobile distribution center for cool treats and information) both lured crowds to the new space on opening weekend. Once inside, viewers encountered works such as Amy Maloof's recasts of garage sale landscape images, and Ben Shaffer's orchestrated reshuffles of iPod music via reinvented speakers. Along with intriguing film, video, and mixed media work by other artists, they fulfill Cranston's quest to give "joyful expression to live in all its tragic and preposterous forms"

(UC Riverside, Sweeney Art Gallery,
Riverside, CA)