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# Peter Shire designing 'theatrical environment' for the Olympics

## ART NEWS

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It appears that Echo Park ceramist-designer-artist Peter Shire will be lending his inventive style to the face of the Olympics. He's been asked by Sussman/Prejza and Co., the firm designing the Olympic look, to create what Deborah Sussman calls a "theatrical environment" for the athletes housed at UCLA and USC. (The project is still awaiting the approval of the L.A. Olympic Organizing Committee.)

Although the work is still evolving, it is expected to serve as a type of discoteque-club with live and recorded music. The UCLA space will be in Drake stadium, which is being refurbished to what the Olympic folk call "Main Street," an area of shops and restaurants similar to a mall. Shire's 4,000-square-foot area is likely to be open-air so he plans to suspend shaped-metal sculptures to create the sense of a ceiling, as well as a science-fiction-style sky. The walls will be defined by pillars, both wriggly and geometric, topped with cut-metal figures in Shire's typically sprightly colors such as tangerine, pink and lime. It will serve some 7,000 athletes at UCLA. A similar space will be built on USC's sound stage. Shire's meld of influences from Latin and Asian countries, as well as his international reputation as one of this country's leading designers, would make him the ideal choice for such a commission.

Herald art critic Christopher Knight will join Charles Jencks, Frank Gehry, Bill Turnbull, Barbara Stauffacher-Solomon and Thomas Gordon Smith in a symposium exploring the renewed interest in ornamentalism. It will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave. Admission is \$5. All proceeds benefit the Architecture and Design Support Group of the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Today is International Women's Day. In tribute there is a one-day symposium at the University of Southern California, "Women's Art: Constructive Values in a Destructive World." A workshop on

Chilean *Arpillera* — tapestries made by Chilean women depicting human-rights violations — will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Watt Hall 1, with an introduction by Betty Brown and Beth Miller. Two *Arpillera* artists will speak, translated by Carmen Silva. The symposium will follow the workshop, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Ruth Weisberg will give an introduction, followed by a talk by Miriam Schapiro, and panel of Cheri Gaulke, Connie Jenkins, Maren Hassinger, and Schapiro moderated by Gloria Orenstein. All are feminist artists. A reception on the Fisher Gallery patio will follow. For information call Susan Crow at 743-7951.

New York art dealer Dennis R. Anderson has been indicted on charges that he had directed a swindle of \$700,000 from four Manhattan galleries by selling and reselling works by Degas, Matisse and Seurat. Anderson, 37, is author of three art books and a former curator of American art at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Va. According to the indictment by the grand jury of the New York State Supreme Court, Anderson sold works of art he had borrowed from Pace Gallery, Arnold L. Herstand and Co., the Aberbach Fine Art Gallery and the Salander O'Reilly Galleries. Anderson is accused of borrowing works of art from the galleries, selling them for large sums of money, and not paying the dealers. The scheme allegedly began in November when Anderson "borrowed" a painting by Charles Demuth, "Basket of Fruit with Flowerpot" from Salander O'Reilly and sold it to a client for \$79,500. The client asked Anderson to resell the painting. Instead, Anderson is accused of returning the painting to the gallery and keeping the money. A few weeks later, Anderson allegedly borrowed a Seurat painting and drawings by Degas and Matisse from Arnold L. Herstand. Anderson said that he'd found buyers and asked whether Herstand would accept \$232,000. Herstand accepted and Anderson wrote two checks, both of which reportedly bounced. Using a similar scheme, Anderson is said to have borrowed two paintings from Pace, one by Giacometti, the other by Dubuffet. The Dubuffet is still missing.

Anderson is being held without bail on nine counts of grand larceny in the second degree. If convicted he faces seven years in prison. His lawyer, Lawrence Levner, said Anderson was innocent and the charges had resulted from a "misunderstanding" with gallery owners who were too quick to demand payment.