



ART CLASS After 10 years of planning, the Lux Art Institute in Encinitas is now open to artists and visitors. Developed as a twist on the traditional museum, the Lux operates an artist-in-residence program that offers visitors the unusual opportunity to see art in the making.

Rather than presenting art as a commodity, Lux aims to show visitors "the living artist," giving them a

chance to ask questions and explore the creative process.

Lux arranges residencies during which an artist lives in an on-site apartment and works in-studio for two to eight weeks. Admission is good for two visits during the same residency, so visitors can come early to experience the work in progress and later on to view the completed work, alongside additional works by the same artist.

Admission: \$10 for two visits; free to members and visitors under 21. 1550 S. El Camino Real, Encinitas. (760) 436-6611; luxartinstitute.org. —Louise Julig

A Window to the Sky

James Turrell, an Arizona-based artist known for his interpretations of light and space, has created "Skyspaces" for museums and private collectors all over the world. Late last year, at Pomona College, he completed the first Skyspace in Southern California that's open to the public.

"Dividing the Light" consists of a metal canopy with a window to the sky. At sunrise and sunset, LEDs cover the canopy with different colors, causing the color of the sky to change from the viewer's perspective. Benches all around the edge of the canopy allow people to take in the view comfortably.

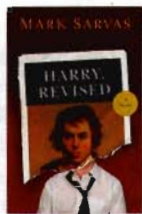
Sixth Street and College Way, Pomona College campus. Groups of 10 or more must make reservations with the Pomona College Museum of Art. (909) 621-8283; pomona.edu/museum.

—Robin Jones

SUMMER READS BY SOCAL SCRIBES Looking for the perfect beach read this summer? Whether your taste runs to fiction or nonfiction, we recommend the following books, all of which were written by Southern California authors. —Beth Phaner



Mustang
By Deanne Stillman
With *Mustang*, Deanne Stillman returns with a nonfiction work chronicling the epic story of the wild horse in the American West. A decade in the making, Stillman's compelling, exhaustive account follows the wild horse from its origins in North America to its present-day fight for survival. Available now.



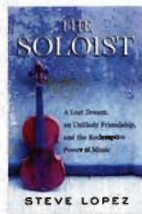
Harry, Revised
By Mark Sarvas
SoCal literati know Sarvas through his popular litblog, *The Elegant Variation*. Now, they'll know him for his impressive debut, a funny, poignant novel about middle-aged widower Harry Rent, whose wife's untimely death sends the flawed protagonist on a journey of personal transformation. Available now.



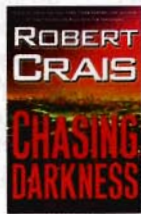
So Long at the Fair
By Christina Schwarz
In her third novel, Schwarz (author of *Drowning Ruth*) presents a story about love and adultery in a small Wisconsin town. Alternating between one fateful night in 1963 and the course of a single day 30 years later, it is an evocative portrait of a marriage on the brink of collapse. Available July 8.



Snitch Jacket
By Christopher Goffard
A nominee for the 2008 Edgar Award for Best First Novel, *Snitch Jacket* explores the seedy Southern California underworld as viewed by Benny Bunt, an overeducated barfly who hangs out at the local dive, the Greasy Tuesday. Available now.



The Soloist
By Steve Lopez
Based on a series of columns Lopez wrote for the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Soloist* continues the true story of Nathaniel Ayers, a mentally ill Juilliard-trained violinist who lived on L.A.'s Skid Row. Through an unlikely friendship, both men find their lives irrevocably altered. A movie is already in the works. Available now.



Chasing Darkness
By Robert Crais
The author of *The Watchman* is back in top thriller mode with *Chasing Darkness*, his latest entry in the Elvis Cole series. This time around, L.A. private investigator Cole, along with his enigmatic sidekick, Joe Pike, must uncover the truth about one of the city's most notorious serial murderers. Available July 1.

TOP LEFT: JENNIFER MULLIGAN