

An ambitious exhibition which expands on Amir Zaki's dedication to photographing built and natural landscapes will be on display at Orange Coast College's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion from Sept. 19 until Dec. 5, 2019.

The exhibition, titled "Empty Vessel – Amir Zaki," is curated by The Doyle's director Tyler Stallings, and presents selections from two bodies of photographic images that create a tension between the fragility of broken ceramic vessels and the solidity of quintessential California concrete skateparks.

A preview reception for Zaki will take place on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 5–7 p.m., and there will be an artist-led exhibition tour and book signing on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 2–3 p.m., followed by an opening reception from 3–5 p.m. Admission to all events is free.

"Through both the intentional absence of skaters and the brokenness of the ceramics, together all these 'vessels' are pictured as sculptural rather than functional, hence, the title: Empty Vessel," says Stallings.

From a pop culture angle, the uniqueness of "Empty Vessel – Amir Zaki" is that most shows which explore skate subculture focus on the graphics, lifestyle, or the skateboarders themselves; this will be the first major exhibition that features the unusual architecture of skateparks. From a fine arts perspective, Zaki's work is an extension of New Topographic photographers from the 1970s, extending their focus on our human-made environment into the suburban and exurban environments throughout Southern California.

Amir Zaki is a practicing artist living in Southern California. He received his MFA from UCLA in 1999 and has been regularly and actively exhibiting photographs and videos nationally and internationally since. Zaki has had solo shows in Los Angeles at the Edward Cella Gallery, MAK Center, and ACME gallery, and Perry Rubenstein Gallery in New York, among others. His work has been included in significant group exhibitions at the Orange County Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum

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LEED building, we just have to.' The same thing was true with SITES and TRUE Zero Waste. Make no mistake, this was done by the students, for the students."

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED is the most widely used green building program in the world. The SITES rating system evaluates the sustainable performance of landscapes and the TRUE Zero Waste rating system enables facilities to define, pursue and achieve their zero waste goals.

Orange Coast College Offers Free Citizenship and English Language Courses

Orange Coast College's Adult Education program is collaborating with the College's English as a Second Language department to offer free English Language courses aimed at improving listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar skills. The College also is offering free citizenship preparation classes to help prepare residents for the written and oral citizenship tests.

Language classes will be offered to all level of students, from beginning to advanced, and classes are available in the morning, afternoon and evening. The program is designed to offer three different paths, based on student goals: academic readiness, workplace and community engagement.

"Orange County is becoming increasingly more diverse, and employers are seeking employees who might struggle with a language barrier," says Director of Adult Education Sarah Head. "There are a lot of individuals who need to improve their English skills, whether it's for academic purposes or to thrive in the community."

Citizenship preparation classes will be offered in the Fall 2019 semester on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The fall class will focus on preparing individuals specifically for the written portion of the United States citizenship test, and students will learn about U.S. history, geography, and government. A class focused on the oral portion of the test will be offered in the evenings during the Spring 2020 semester, and students will learn about the naturalization process and civic rights and responsibilities.

OCC's citizenship classes are open to everyone.

Students who successfully complete both citizenship classes are eligible to earn a Certificate of Competency. All classes are noncredit (0 units) and tuition free. Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks.

For more information visit www.orangecoastcollege.edu/adulteducation or call (714) 432-6897. Inquiries can also be sent to adulteducation@occ.cccd.edu

Learn English for *FREE*

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Rare Corpse Flower Set to Bloom Next Week at OCC

Orange Coast College's horticulture department has announced it has a "Corpse Flower" ready to bloom in the next week.

The rare and endangered *Amorphophallus titanum* flower is known for its pungent odor, which many people liken to rotting flesh. The plant can take many years to bloom and has the potential to grow more than 10 feet tall.

OCC originally received three corpse flowers from the Huntington Botanical Gardens in 2006. In 2014, the College saw the blooming of a flower named "Little John" which stood at 4 feet and drew hundreds of spectators. The current flower has been named "Little Eva" after Student Activities Assistant Eva Shafer.

"It's amazing how many people want to smell it, [the smell] is the biggest draw about it," says Horticulture Lab Coordinator Joe Stead.

Once the flower blooms the odor will last anywhere from 24 to 48 hours. The plant will be on display at the OCC Planetarium Patio starting Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.,

and once the flower blooms, the College will allow visitors until 6 p.m.

Members of the public are invited to stop by campus to experience the Corpse Flower's unique scent. Admission and parking are free, with a suggested \$5 donation to support student scholarships.



Navigate OCC Event Aims to Show New Students the Ins and Outs of Campus

OCC will welcome new students to campus on Tuesday, Aug. 20 at a Navigate OCC event that includes tours, workshop sessions, a resource fair, giveaways and more.

The College is expecting nearly 1,000 students at the event, many of whom qualify for freshman priority registration. Parents and guardians are also welcome at the event. The idea behind Navigate OCC is to introduce students to campus facilities, resources and programs of study prior to the start of school on Aug. 26. All students and parents/guardians in attendance will be provided with lunch.