



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

April 9, 2026  
Agenda Item No. 6

**TO:** CITY ARTS COMMISSION

**FROM:** Library Services Department  
Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director  
(949) 717-3801, [mhartson@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:mhartson@newportbeachca.gov)

**PREPARED BY:** Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

**TITLE:** Cultural Arts Activities – March 2026

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## CENTRAL LIBRARY GALLERY EXHIBITS

Soung-won Park: *Photography*  
February 9, 2026 - April 3, 2026, Central Library



"What are we mourning? Beneath the blossoms of civilization, we walk carrying a dark truth."  
"우리는 무엇을 애도하고 있는가? 문명의 꽃 아래, 검은 진실을 들고 걷는다."

This exhibition consists of over 30 photographic works taken over several years while traveling through various regions including the United States, South Korea, Europe, and Central and South America. Mr. Park's photographs do not simply document specific locations but rather reflect on light and time and the quiet dignity of human existence revealed within cities and environments.

Among the exhibited works, the photograph "Funeral for Oil Civilization" is particularly noteworthy. This work was taken in Stavanger, a city in Norway known for its oil industry. Featuring a large mural as its main subject, this photograph symbolically looks

back at the oil age, raising questions about modern civilization, energy, and collective memory. While this work is presented as a key piece representing the exhibition, it does not define the overall theme of the exhibition. Artist Park Seung-won says, "This exhibition goes beyond simply showcasing images; it aims to raise fundamental questions such as why we take photographs, and when a photograph transcends mere documentation to become a work of art."

Having pursued photography for over 50 years, Park began with documentary photography focusing on people, and has expanded his work to include cities, architecture, urban abstraction, and conceptual fine art photography.

His works are praised for quietly but profoundly revealing the passage of time and the delicate relationship between humans and cities. Park Seung-won is a member of the Korea Photographers Association, and has received numerous awards and exhibited his work both domestically and internationally, including the Grand Prize at the Kameoka City Tourism Photography Contest in Kyoto Prefecture, Japan, an

invitation to exhibit at the Korea Asia Forum, an award in the photography category at the Made in California exhibition in Brea City, an award for his black and white work "Tango" at the London International Creative Competition (LICC), and an award in the portrait category at the 7th Fine Art Photography Awards (FAPA).

### Upcoming Installations

#### **2026**

- April 6 - May 29: Dennis Carrie (Historical Figures/Portrait Painting)

#### **CULTURAL ARTS CALENDER OF EVENTS:**

City Arts Commission (CAC) meetings are held at 5 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

- **2025-26 CAC Regular Monthly Meetings:**

- April 9, 2026
- May 14, 2026
- June 11, 2026

#### **MAYOR'S EGG RACE:**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Egg Race was held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Civic Center Green. The City Arts Commission hosted a Spin Art Booth.



#### **59<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NEWPORT BEACH CALL FOR ENTRIES:**

The call for entries opened on Monday, April 6 and will remain open until Monday, June 15. Artists can apply by making a free account on [CallforEntry.org](https://CallforEntry.org). The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Newport Beach Art Exhibition will take place on Saturday, August 15, 2026 as part of the Inaugural Newport Beach Art Week.

#### **NOTICING:**

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Arts Commission considers the item).