

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## A Different Golden Gate View

By Geoffrey A. Fowler  
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One of David Liittschwager's portraits of tiny Bay creatures.

Instead, the artists approached their subject conceptually, "in a way that is unexpected—and rather obtuse, in some cases."

Among the least literal homages to the Golden Gate is a series of formal portraits by David Liittschwager of a few of the 2.6 billion creatures that pass underneath one cubic foot of the bridge in a 24-hour period. After collecting samples in the water with a very fine net, he put the tiny creatures under a microscope for their close-ups. "It is an exercise with trying to be modest," says Mr. Liittschwager, a National Geographic photographer who lives in San Francisco.

The works are installed in the rooms and coves of wind-whipped Fort Point, a brick 1863 structure directly under the south side of the bridge and a memorable setting in Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo."

To install their work, the artists weren't allowed to make any permanent modifications to the historical structure, even using existing nails to hang pictures. A few whose works involve electronics for sound and video projection say they've got their fingers crossed that the elements won't destroy their creations.

Ms. Haines did make one exception to her no-postcard rule. Artist Stephanie Syjuco created a faux commemorative store at the bridge, featuring souvenirs like books, tote bags and key chains, all painted to match the bridge. None of the items are for sale, but visitors to the exhibit will be able to take away for free one of 50,000 cards featuring nothing more than the color international orange.

An art installation to celebrate the Golden Gate Bridge's 75th birthday opens this weekend in San Francisco with one thing missing: paintings and drawings of the bridge itself.

The "International Orange" exhibition, named after the bridge's hot vermilion paint job, features 15 contemporary artists who try to turn the idea of the icon on its head. There's a tapestry based on the feeling of being in the middle of the bridge's famous fog, a live video broadcast from underneath the rumbling span and even a faux gift shop in which all of the merchandise is painted orange.

"The last thing we wanted was another postcard or poster, or something that addresses it literally," says curator Cheryl Haines, who put together the \$1 million exhibit through her arts organization FOR-SITE Foundation, which specializes in site-specific art.