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Kids build underwater worlds with Legos at Hall of Science Exhibit shows how ocean is studied

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Legos are the building blocks of choice at the Lawrence Hall of Science this month.

The "Lego Ocean Adventure" exhibit running through Sept. 7 illustrates how scientists sleep, eat and play underwater while studying the ocean's depths using unmanned "rovers." The exhibition features a coral reef with squid, dolphins and jellyfish, all constructed of Legos, and an area where children can create their own underwater vehicles and landscapes using Legos.

And if you crave still more Legos, on Sunday Lego Building Day brings with it members of the Bay Area Lego User Group, who will reveal tips and tricks for creating Lego works of art. BAYLUG is known for its huge, detailed Lego sculptures, such as a model of the San Francisco waterfront. The event will also feature food and music.

For more information contact the Lawrence Hall of Science at (510) 642- 5132.

Peralta House: The landmark Antonio Peralta House, "The birthplace of Oakland," will now host tours on Wednesdays in addition to the first Saturday of every month. Tours on Saturday are from 1 to 3 p.m.; Wednesday tours are from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Peralta House was built in 1870 and is near the footprints of the first non-native settlement in the East Bay. The house is a local and state landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. The Peralta House is at 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. For more information visit www.peraltahacienda.org or call (510) 532-9142.

Really big show: Now through Oct. 1 in the Oakland City Center, Julia Latán's "Thither" exhibition will be on display. "Thither" attempts to create a scene that is artificial yet evokes the organic through works such as "Blade," which is made up of 31 individual shiny vinyl oversized blades of grass. The exhibit's four separate sculpture installations are oversized representations of the natural world intended to intimidate and inspire awe.

"Thither" is on display at Gallery 555, 555 12th St., Oakland. For more information call the Oakland Museum of California at (510) 238-2200.

Art fellows: The Kala Art Institute of Berkeley will be showcasing the works of its 2002 Kala Fellowship winners until Sept. 6 in the Kala Gallery. The second part of the "2 x 4" exhibition features Kala fellows Tara Cooper, Barbara Robertson, Jeanne Lorenz, and Bay Area artist Ruth Eckland of Emerald Hills.

The Kala Fellowship is given annually to eight artists worldwide who demonstrate innovation in a range of

mediums, from printmaking to video and digital media. Recipients receive a cash prize as well as a six-month residency at the institute, which includes around-the-clock access to a plethora of printmaking equipment.

The exhibition features, among others, Cooper's "Falling Between the Feathers," a collection of drawings, photographs, and text fragments centered around a songbird, and Eckland's video confessions "The Elevator Interviews."

The Kala Art Institute is at 1060 Heinz Ave. in the old Heinz Ketchup Factory in Berkeley. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information call (510) 549-2977 or visit www.kala.org.

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