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**Dogpatch Cafe & Art Gallery Grand Opening and Inaugural Art Exhibit  
Opening Reception: Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 9 pm**

On Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, Dogpatch Cafe & Art Gallery will present two bodies of work by **Bay Area artist, Rodney Ewing**. The first, “Port Chicago”, references a deadly munitions explosion that occurred on July 17, 1944 at the Port Chicago Naval Base (Richmond), California. The munitions detonated while being loaded onto a navy cargo ship, killing 320 sailors and civilians and injuring 390 others. Most of the dead and injured were enlisted African-American sailors.

A month later, continued unsafe conditions forced hundreds of these black servicemen to refuse to resume loading munitions. Fifty men, called the Port Chicago 50, were tried and convicted of mutiny, and sentenced to long prison terms. Thurgood Marshall acted as their defense lawyer. Forty-seven of the 50 were released in January 1946; the remaining three served additional months in prison. They have all only recently been exonerated after over 60 years.



The second set of drawings are part of series in progress called “Rituals of Water”. This project is an exploration of the allegory of water in the context of the African Diaspora. The work is segregated into four thematic sections: Transition (Middle Passage), Transformation (Baptism), Resistance (Civil Rights), and Dispersal (Hurricane Katrina). By categorizing the topic in this manner, Ewing has not only created a timeline, but has also produced a record of how an element can serve in mundane, transcendent and malevolent capacities.

Dogpatch Cafe & Art Gallery: 2295 - 3rd Street San Francisco, CA 94107.  
The gallery is open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Phone: (415) 255-9982

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