

# S.F. Group's Art for Kids' Sake

By Gary E. Swan  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A creative group of Santa's helpers in San Francisco were hard at work yesterday turning a pile of junk toys into an art collection.

"I got a wheel off a dump trunk and a doll's tail. Anybody use 'em?" asked local artist Wayne Zebzda, dressed like Santa's other helpers in elf pajamas and a red stocking cap.

"We got plenty of broken dolls. What we need down here is a frog. One plastic frog," said fellow helper and sculptor Matias Jaramillo, swigging a Rolling Rock beer.

About 25 of the Bay Area's best known painters, sculptors and conceptual artists are putting their minds and hammers together to help buy Christmas toys for poor kids.

The idea is to make collector's items out of broken and discarded toys. If they can sell the offbeat and funky pieces for \$2 to \$5, they can buy some new toys for kids before Christmas.

The artists will be collecting old toys and selling their sometimes absurd creations at 1329 Folsom Street until Sunday.

The raw material yesterday consisted of plastic bowling pins, little trucks with missing wheels, and dolls lacking various appendages — all piled on a table.

Three artists studied the pile for five minutes before going to work. Most people, after five minutes, would have called Sunset Scavenger.

"A lot of it is spare parts stuff," Zebzda said. "Somebody might want a leg from this



BY SAM FORENCICH/THE CHRONICLE

Artist Wayne Zebzda searched through a pile of broken toys to find material for sculpture. The artwork will be sold to help raise money to buy new toys for Christmas.

one, an arm from that one. One object triggers an idea and it's up to you to find the bits and pieces to put it together."

Artist Jean-Louis Pierson took a pie plate, part of a drum, and a table leg. He found a frog and put it in the pie plate. "Frog Under Toadstool," he named it.

A few collectibles were already on display

The top of a bowling pin had been cut off and a Mr. Potato Head stuck on it. Tiny doll arms came out of Mr. Potato Head's ears.

"There are a lot of different minds at work here," Zebzda said. "As an artist you're never sure what's going to come out when you start."

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Here's an arty new twist on Toys for Tots. From Dec. 5 to 11 Wayne Zebzda and about 30 other artists will be turning broken toys into "sculptural objects" and selling them for between \$5 and \$25, with the money to go to local charities. The artists will be at the Artspace annex, 1329 Folsom St. Feel free to bring broken toys. "If they're not broken," says Zebzda, "we'll break them for you." ...

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