Nickelodeon and California State University, Fullerton’s Art Department present “Butt What Is Art? A Sanjay and Craig Fine Art Retrospective,” a rich, comprehensive collection of production art that offers a behind-the-scenes look at the world of television animation. Curated by renowned art historians Sanjay and Craig, the exhibit is the first to focus exclusively on art created for, and inspired by, Nickelodeon’s hit animated series "Sanjay and Craig."

The opening reception is 5 p.m. Saturday, April 12, in the Atrium Galley of the Pollak Library. The dates for the exhibition are April 14 through June 20.

"This unique and whimsical exhibit captures the show’s themes of humor, friendship and adventure across various creative mediums,” said Russell Hicks, president, content development and production, Nickelodeon. "California State University, Fullerton has a respected Art Department and, in turn, has done an excellent job curating production assets that breathe life into Sanjay and Craig."

“We are honored to partner with Nickelodeon in mounting and presenting this exuberant celebration of the art and craft of television animation, as well as on a wide range of special projects, workshops, critiques and other invaluable opportunities for our animation and illustration students,” said Jade Jewitt, chair, Art Department, CSUF College of the Arts.

The exhibition inspired by the Nickelodeon cartoon series "Sanjay and Craig" depicts the adventures of young Sanjay Patel and Craig, his pet snake.

The showcase traces the birth of “Sanjay and Craig” from its punk-inspired creation in San Francisco — where the dude-snake duo was first drawn — to its present state as an artist-inspired, storyboard-driven show with creators at the heart. The collection is punctuated by original character sketches, layouts, backgrounds, title cards, storyboards and animatic video. In addition, the curators have commissioned original art for the exhibition, including drawings, sculptures, and a one-of-a-kind collection of Fart Jars.

A Creators Talk and Q&A at 3 p.m. will follow the VIP reception with "Sanjay and Craig" creators and co-executive producers Jim Dirschberger and Jay Howell. Dirschberger and Howell will present a visual journey through their careers that will highlight their various creative influences and partnership, and the collaborations that led to the show’s inception at Nickelodeon. A screening of a "Sanjay and Craig” episode will conclude the session. Doors open to the public 5-7 p.m.
"Sanjay and Craig" is created by Dirschberger, Howell and Andreas Trolf. Dirschberger and Howell are also co-executive producers, and award-winning team Chris Viscardi and Will McRobb serve as executive producers. The series features the voice talents of Maulik Pancholy and Chris Hardwick in the lead roles with additional cast members that include: Linda Cardellini ("Mad Men," "Freaks and Geeks") as Megan, Matt Jones ("Breaking Bad") as Hector, Tony Hale ("Veep," "Arrested Development") as Mr. Noodman, Grey DeLisle ("The Fairly OddParents") as Darlene and Sandy Dickson and Remington Tufflips as himself.

About Nickelodeon
Nickelodeon, now in its 35th year, is the No. 1 entertainment brand for kids. It has built a diverse, global business by putting kids first in everything it does. The company includes television programming and production in the United States and around the world, plus consumer products, online, recreation, books and feature films. Nickelodeon's U.S. television network is seen in almost 100 million households and has been the No. 1-rated basic cable network for 19 consecutive years. Media seeking more information or artwork may visit Nickelodeon (http://www.nickpress.com). Nickelodeon and all related titles, characters and logos are trademarks of Viacom Inc. (NASDAQ: VIA, VIA.B).

About California State University, Fullerton
Entertainment industry regard for the artists who make up Cal State Fullerton's entertainment art/animation and illustration faculty has helped many Titan alumni successfully bridge the classroom to careers in the visual arts, animation and entertainment fields. Every semester, the College of the Arts (http://www.fullerton.edu/arts/index.html) partners with leading studios on special projects, workshops, design critiques and internships to advance students' mastery of skills and problem-solving in a real-world context. Throughout the entertainment world, the College of the Arts' animation and illustration students (http://www.facebook.com/CSUFAnimation) are making the most of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities in television and film animation, video game art, advertising and design.

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For additional information about the exhibition, VIP reception and the Creators Talk, contact CSUF Media Relations (mailto:cbugbee@fullerton.edu).

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