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ZeroOne 2006 : San Jose's 'Global Festival of Art on the Edge' begins today at several locations downtown.

ZeroOne exhibits get an early start

By Jaweed Kaleem
Mercury News

While many exhibitions at the ZeroOne San Jose art and technology festival are open to the public starting today, some got a head start Monday.

At the San Jose Museum of Art, the C4F3 .Interactive Cafe was partly up and running. Visitors could spend time in a transformed cafe area to get their coffee and discover "Secrets," artist J.D. Beltran's installation of tiny, hidden LCD screens that play subtitled videos. The full cafe will be ready at 11 a.m. today.

Pieces from "Container Culture," in which artists from Pacific Rim countries use the space in standardized shipping containers to display artwork, were also shown outside the museum.

Spokeswoman Doniece Sandoval said the museum, usually closed Mondays, gets a few hundred visitors each weekday, but she has noticed larger crowds leading up to the festival.

At South Hall of the San Jose McEnery Convention Center, more than 50 artists had their work on display for the media. A few of the radio-controlled machines for Friday's thunderous Survival Research Labs performance were just outside South Hall and awaiting showtime.

"Today was just a preview," said Todd Blair, a ZeroOne organizer. "Tomorrow will be prime time," with full-scale attractions like the PigeonBlog, karaoke ice battles, and the illumination of City Hall and its rotunda.