

SANTA BARBARA CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exhibition Dates:

January 20-February 9

Opening Reception:

Thursday, February 1
6-9PM

Artists' Lecture:

Thursday, February 1
6-7PM

CAF celebrates film and photography with Cinematic Moods: Images from the Society of Motion Picture Still Photography

SANTA BARBARA, CA –*Hooray for Hollywood!*

Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum is proud to present ***Cinematic Moods: Images from the Society of Motion Picture Still Photography*** an exhibition of over 50 original photographic stills from motion picture sets, backdrops, and studios. Taken both as publicity images, visual records, and cultural observations, these photographs present a rare insiders look into the world of filmmaking. The photographers, all members of the honorary Society of Motion Picture Still Photography, bring artistry and vision to what could be simply a commercial endeavor in other hands. Many of the photos presented at CAF are the result of a generous loan from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which retains the SMPSP images for posterity.

This exhibition was made possible through a collaboration of the Society of Motion Picture Still Photographers, the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, and the Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau and Film Commission and it is presented in conjunction with the 22nd Annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and *1st Thursday*. On Thursday, February 1, CAF welcomes several of the exhibiting photographers to speak about their unique practice and process. Following this lecture will be an Opening Reception which coincides with the launch of *1st Thursday*.

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The Society of Motion Picture Still Photography was founded in 1995 as a nonprofit, honorary organization dedicated to the art of motion picture still photography. Their interests include the archival preservation of still pictures shot during the production of motion pictures and the promotion of these images as historical and cultural artifacts. The 36 members hail from the US, Canada, Great Britain, Denmark, Spain, France and Hungary.

Cinematic Moods recognizes Santa Barbara's place in film history and contemporary cinema. Santa Barbara was home to California's first major movie studio — Flying "A" Studios (1910). In the early days of cinematic history, mild year-round weather and dynamic backdrops were integral to year-round filming and Santa Barbara fit the bill from the seascapes of France to the sandscapes of Morocco. Between 1912 and 1921, the county set the stage for more than 1000 films. From the desolate dunes of Guadalupe, where Cecil B. DeMille's *Ten Commandments* (1923) sets still lie, to driving scenes from *The Graduate* (1967), the region's film credit history includes hundreds of feature films. Today, filmmakers still make use of the county's many photogenic locations. Scenes in Disney's *G.I. Jane*, *Hidalgo* and *Pirates of the Caribbean III* were filmed at the remote Guadalupe Dunes. Director Alexander Payne chose the lush vineyards of the Santa Ynez Valley for his Oscar® winning wine-infused comedy, *Sideways*, and North County's equestrian landscape set the stage for Universal's *Seabiscut*.

Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum is a non-profit, non-collecting alternative art space dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the arts of our time. Celebrating its 30th Anniversary in September 2006, CAF is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco, presenting 15-18 exhibitions annually. ***Cinematic Moods*** reflects our mission to sustain and encourage contemporary art and artists ensuring that creative expression and appreciation flourishes in and beyond our community.

Images available upon request. For more information contact Elizabeth Lovero, at 805.966.5373 ext 101 or go online to www.sbcaf.org.