



SANTA BARBARA
CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum presents Glass Love: Contemporary Art & Surf and Bloom
Projects: Graham Caldwell, Ejecta*

Exhibition Dates: November 17, 2007 - January 13, 2008

Opening Reception: Saturday, November 17, 2007: 6-8 PM



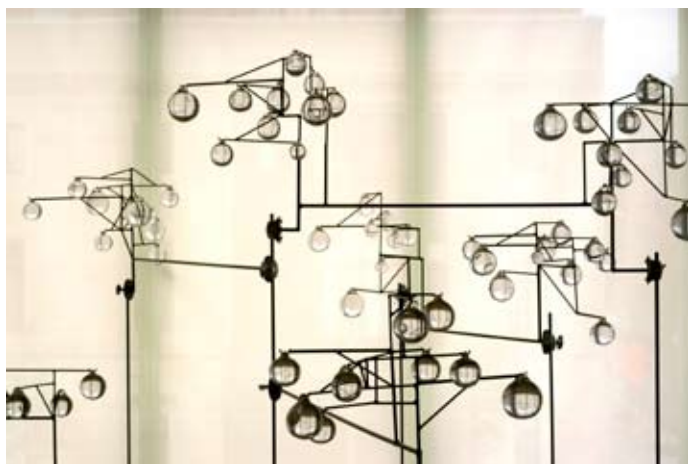
SANTA BARBARA, CA—*Surf Forecast: Pure Glassy Conditions!* Just as clean, glassy waves allow surfers the perfect conditions to develop their own stylistic nuances, this November the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF) considers how contemporary artists utilize surf imagery and its metaphors to develop their own aesthetic impulses. On view from November 17, 2007—January 13, 2008, *Glass Love: Contemporary Art and Surf* examines how and why a growing group of younger artists reference not only the visual language but also the philosophy and lifestyle of surfing in their artistic practice.

No longer relegated to a few beach communities, surf culture has captivated international audiences, producing a significant body of scholarship and documentation about the sport, its history and genesis, and the philosophies of its participants. Artists in this exhibition—Chris Ballantyne, Amy Bird, Libby Black, Brian Calvin, Cassandra C. Jones, Catherine Opie, Aaron Parazette, Bruno Peinado, and Joni Sternbach—reference the sustained relationship of surfing and art to explore themes of individuality, mediation and Zen philosophy, and popular culture.

In addition to making notable contributions to international contemporary art dialogue, *Glass Love* offers a unique opportunity to reach out to our community and render contemporary art more accessible by referencing one of the wellsprings of California culture. In conjunction with this exhibition, CAF will hold a panel discussion with artists, provide workshops with students of all ages, and program free family activities to foster a greater understanding of the arts of our time.



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Graham Caldwell
Orrey (detail), 2007
Glass, metal, string
Dimensions variable
Courtesy the Artist

Also on view

Bloom Projects: Graham Caldwell, Ejecta

At CAF, Caldwell will occupy the Bloom Projects and Glass Box gallery space to sculpturally transform the environment with red blown-glass droplet forms of varying sizes radiating out from a central point mounted on the wall using thread, steel, and other materials. The title of Caldwell's exhibit, *Ejecta*, refers to the material thrown out (ejected) from an impact crater, explosion, or volcano, which interestingly enough, are often composed of glass material. Caldwell is redefining the studio glass movement from its complacently decorative roots to investigate broader themes and social issues. Recently, artists like Dale Chihuly and others have helped elevate the perception of glass as an artistic craft, while younger artists like Caldwell are further engaging with the medium's conceptual potential. Supplementing his glass sculptures with other materials and installing them in adventurous and innovative ways, Caldwell transcends the utilitarian nature of the medium and creates innovative contemporary artwork.

Caldwell (b. 1973, Washington, D.C.; works/lives: Brooklyn, NY) studied glass making at the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence (B.F.A. 1998); the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, Maine (1998); The Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York (1998); Umeleckprumyslova (School of Applied Arts) in Prague, Czech Republic; Pilchuk Glass School, Stanwood, Washington (1997); and Parsons School of Design, New York City (1992-1995). Fostering a critical and contemporary art practice from his extensive experience studying the craft of traditional glassmaking,

Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum is non-profit, non-collecting alternative art space dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the arts of our time. CAF is the premier venue for contemporary art between on the Central, presenting 15-18 exhibitions annually. **Images available upon request. For more information contact Kami Shallenberger, at 805.966.5373 ext 104 or go online to www.sbcaf.org.**

Image captions from pg. 1 (from left to right):

Chris Ballantyne
Untitled, Tidal Bore, 2006
Acrylic on panel
48 x 26 in.

Courtesy Peres Projects, Los Angeles, Berlin

Amy Bird
Surfers #1, 2005
Oil on canvas
36 x 18 in.

Courtesy Milo Gallery, Los Angeles