



SANTA BARBARA
CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum presents two new exhibitions by artist Jean-Pierre Hébert and **Bloom Projects** artist Julien Audebert!*

Exhibition Dates: August 30 - November 9, 2008

Opening Reception: Saturday, August 30, 2008, 6-8 PM



Santa Barbara, CAF — CAF highlights French Art and Culture!

This September the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF) presents a major solo exhibition, *Jean-Pierre Hébert: Drawing with Mind*. Hébert, an artist who has lived in Santa Barbara since 1984, is mining the fields of engineering, visual art, music, spirituality, and digital technology. This exhibition presents newly commissioned works in digital media, kinetic sculptures, digital video animations, and large format prints.

In the past 30 years, Hébert has become one of our digital generation's most sophisticated and accomplished masters, linking old and new disciplines, simple and complex technologies, and the cultures of the East and West. Fascinated by the sublime world of nature's mathematical algorithms and inspired by Chagal, Picasso, and others working near his childhood home in France, Hébert is one of the world's first artists to co-opt computer code as an essential art tool. He uses programming languages to drive electronic mechanical devices to assist him in making intensely beautiful, meditative, math and physics-based works on paper, sand, water, copper, and other materials.

Exploring what is now known as “computational drawing,” Hébert composes computer code to realize mesmerizing images on a variety of plotters. Seeing the computer as a “tool for the mind” and his plotter as a replacement for his hand, he forms a direct connection between his mind and finished works of art. Hébert (b. 1939, Calais, France) moved to the US in 1984 at which point he devoted himself wholly to creating his art. Since 1989 his work has been shown extensively in the US and EU. Hébert's past exhibitions include: *Siggraph*; *Sans lever la plume*, Galerie Chave, Venice; *Alien Intelligence*, and Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki. Currently Hébert serves as the Artist-in-Residence at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at UCSB and as Artist-in-Residence for the Allosphere Project at the California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI). Upcoming shows will be held at Block Museum at Northwestern University Evanston, and the Pratt Institute Manhattan Gallery. Hébert is the recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Award.



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Also on view

Bloom Projects: Julien Audebert, *Ornament and Crimes*



Studio, 2006
Lambda print beneath diassecc
35.4 x 74.8 inches
2/2 ap. (#6334)
Courtesy Ken Alpert, New York, NY

For **Bloom Projects** at CAF, Audebert will occupy the Bloom and Glass Box gallery spaces with his exhibition that questions the mass reproduction of images in our society and challenges the limits of printing. Sources such as the Bible, great speeches, film classics, and major works of critical theory are the departure point for the artist's investigations. Operating as a quasi-historian, Audebert constructs visual narratives and merges past and present events in an effort to expose the fiction of history—resulting in an body of work that questions the real and the imagined.

Acknowledging California's relationship to the film industry, Paris-based Audebert will continue his photographic/cinematic explorations with an installation and body of work that borrows from cinematic history. Films such as Alfred Hitchcock's, *Rope*, provide a foundation for the artist's work. Audebert compiles film stills and screen caps and presents them simultaneously in one photograph—thus bringing forth a new-unseen image. The exhibition at the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum will be the artist's first in the US.

Julien Audebert (b. 1977, Corrèze; Lives/works, Paris) received his Licence d'arts Plastiques from Université Toulouse in 1999. He has shown throughout France and is beginning to garner significant attention abroad including shows in the UK and Germany. The exhibition at CAF will be the artist's first in the US. Audebert is represented by Gallery Art: Concept where he is the subject of a solo exhibition entitled *nwsfrmnwhr* from March 15 – May 17 2008.

The 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. CAF is the premier venue for contemporary art on the Central Coast, presenting 15-18 exhibitions annually. **Images are available upon request. For more information contact Lauren Mermel, at 805.966.5373 ext 104 or go online to www.sbcaf.org.**

Image captions from pg. 1:

Feng in the Morning Sun, 2000
Ink on Paper 24 x 18 inches
Courtesy the Artist