

SANTA BARBARA CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Exhibition:

Visionaries: Contemporary Art from Santa Barbara's Private Collections and **Bloom**

Projects: Adrian Esparza, *Paño-rama*

On View: **MAY 22 - JUL. 18, 2010**, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum **FREE**

Opening Reception: **MAY 22, 7 - 9 PM**, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum **FREE**



Left: **Arturo Herrera**, *Behind the House*, 1999 (Detail), Color felt, 2 units, 10 1/2 ft x 7 ft 3/8 in. each, Collection of Jacquelyn Klein-Brown, Montecito, CA
Right: **Louise Bourgeois**, *Untitled*, 2001, Fabric, lead, steel, Collection of Tim Walsh and Mike Healy, Montecito, CA

Visionaries: Contemporary Art from Santa Barbara's Private Collections

The Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum celebrates Santa Barbara's world-class, contemporary art collections, specifically highlighting some of today's most cutting-edge artists. Widely recognized as a center of arts and culture, leisure, and natural beauty, Santa Barbara also boasts a population of savvy art aficionados who travel, collect, and support the most compelling art of our time. Miki Garcia, Executive Director and Valerie Velazquez, Assistant Curator, culled through over 20 collections including those of John and Jill Bishop, Jacquelyn Klein-Brown; Jill and Barry Kitnick; Tim Walsh and Mike Healy; Cyndee Howard; Barry and Jo Berkus; and many more, organizing a public exhibition of privately held and rarely seen treasures in our midst. This exhibition offers a glimpse of paintings, prints, drawings, photography, and sculpture by leading figures in the contemporary art world including Louise Bourgeois, Martin Eder, Sam Francis, Arturo Herrera, Ed Ruscha, Cindy Sherman, Hiroshi Sugimoto, and Rob Fisher as well as recognized local artists Richard Aber and Hank Voss.

Special thanks to Wayne McCall and Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

Bloom Projects: Adrian Esparza, *Paño-rama*

Informed by his borderland experience, El Paso-based artist Adrian Esparza riffs on the Spanish word for cloth (paño), for his exhibition *Paño-rama*, which considers power and freedom of expression in contemporary West Coast society. Esparza creates a site-specific installation consisting of multiple, painted handkerchiefs quilted together to form large fabric panels. Collaged images from the internet, personal imagery, and text adorn the handkerchiefs. This newly commissioned work is directly



Adrian Esparza, *Horizon Heights*, 2009, Bed sheets and thread, 144 x 1008 in.
Installation at Artpace, San Antonio, TX

inspired by CAF's geographic location, considering the California prison system, Santa Barbara (Patron Saint of prisoners), outsider art (drawings on handkerchiefs made by prisoners are referred to as "pañños"), the panopticon (a circular prisons with cells distributed around a central surveillance station), and French philosopher, Michel Foucault's writings.

Esparza was born in El Paso, TX where he currently lives and works. He received a B.F.A. from the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX (1996) and an M.F.A. from the California Institute for the Arts, Valencia, CA (1998). Solo exhibitions include *Dream Drought*, Artpace San Antonio, San Antonio, TX (2009); *Notions 256-189*, Cue Art Foundation, New York, NY (2004); and *Who Knew*, The Conduit Gallery Project Room, Dallas, TX (2003). His work has been included in many group exhibitions, including *Phantom Sightings: Art after the Chicano Movement*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA (2008); *Unknitting: Challenging Textile Traditions*, Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX (2008); and *New American Talent: The Twenty-First Exhibition*, Arthouse, Austin, TX (2006).

This exhibition has been made possible in part by the generous support of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Special thanks to Brush & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA and Wayne McCall and Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

About CAF: The Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF) is a non-profit, non-collecting alternative art space dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the arts of our time. Celebrating its 34th anniversary in 2010, CAF is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. CAF is located at the Paseo Nuevo Mall Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND VISUAL IMAGERY CONTACT: Kimberly Hahn 805.403.8108

Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, 653 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

T 805.966.5373 F 805.962.1421 press@sbcaf.org www.sbcaf.org

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 11 AM to 5 PM, Sunday: Noon to 5 PM