

SANTA BARBARA CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition dates: June 18-July 31, 2005

Opening Reception: Saturday June 18, 6-8PM

Richard Lerman: *Fences-Borders*

Bloom Projects: **Rob Fischer:** *Accidental/Intentional*

Call for Entries: **Gabriel Cano:** *Passing Moment*

Richard Lerman, *Fences and Borders*

A self-described sound artist, Richard Lerman uses performance, installation and a variety of other audio/visual media to produce his work. He designs and builds his own transducers, functional microphones crafted from diverse materials, and uses them to amplify and record sounds from different environments. Lerman's work establishes a dynamic connection between the origins of these sound recordings and the installations in which they are used.

Fences and Borders is a multi-media installation representing the fences along the desert region of the Arizona/Mexico border. For several years, Lerman has been interested in borders as areas of transition and change. He also addresses issues of human rights in relation to the hazardous conditions people face while traversing the border from Mexico into the United States. The centerpiece of the installation consists of an 18-foot coil of bougainvillea vine suspended in mid-air, which also functions as a loudspeaker with sounds emanating from the branches. Accompanying this are U.S. geological survey maps of the Southwest region, a video monitor, and video projections of three border sites.

Lerman was born in San Francisco, CA and lives in Phoenix, AZ. He has worked in electronic music since 1963 and is currently a Professor of Audio and Media Arts at Arizona State University West. He has screened his films and videos at numerous centers including Pacific Film Archives, Millennium Film Studies, The London Film Co-op, Grierson State Cinema ImageForum, and the Museum of Modern Art. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in Sound Art for 1987-88 and in March 2001, from the Arizona Commission on the Arts for an installation with Mona Higuchi.

BLOOM PROJECTS

Rob Fischer, *Accidental/Intentional*

Beginning in June 2005, CAF will launch an exhibition series featuring the work of regional, national, and international emerging artists. **Bloom Projects** operates as a laboratory-like environment asking artists to move beyond their studio practice while encouraging experimentation and the creative process.

Fischer's paintings, sculptures, and installations explore the inscrutability between perception and memory and our desire to escape and simultaneously root ourselves to a specific location. For this exhibition, Fischer will continue his investigation of psychologically charged spaces by creating an interior and exterior structure connected by systems of water pipes that include industrial and organic materials.

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Situated in the Bloom Gallery is *Ash Dumpster*, 2003 a glass and steel waste receptacle filled with floorboards, chairs, pipes, and other remnants of a demolished home burned to ash. Surrounding this are several *Fire* paintings; C-prints of abandoned trailers on fire photographed by the artist from his car while driving through his native Minnesota. The trailer, an American icon representing the desire to migrate and discover, is seen in an indefinable state – partly present, partly destroyed. These works are an example of the struggles and failures of architecture, but marks the triumph of the wandering American renegade.

Fischer was born in Minneapolis, MN and lives and works Brooklyn, NY. He received a BFA from Minneapolis College of Art and Design (1993) and has recently had solo exhibitions at Cohan and Leslie, NY, NY (2005) and Mary Goldman Gallery, LA, CA (2004). He has Fischer has also been included in several group shows including, *Greater New York*, PS1/ Museum of Modern Art, NY, NY, (2005), *I Feel Mysterious Today*, Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art, Palm Beach, FL (2004), *Open House*, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY (2004), and the *Whitney Biennial 2004*, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY, NY (2004).

Call for Entries: Gabriel Cano, *Passing Moment*

Gabriel Cano's works romanticize the ephemeral, imagining that which has been lost or no longer exists. Although his subject matter varies from landscapes to portraits, all evoke notions of memory, desire, and longing. Relying on isolated elements and minimal narrative clues, his photographs invite a kind of emotional if ineffable response. Using long exposures, anywhere from five seconds to two minutes, Cano captures the impression of passing moments in time. This sustained approach to documenting his subject results in soft ethereal images that allude to the artist's personal associations with dreams and the imagination.

Cano lives and works in Ventura, CA. He received a BA from Ventura College, Ventura, CA (1997) and a BA in Advertising Photography from Brooks Institute of Photography, Santa Barbara, CA (2000). This is the artist's first solo exhibition. Cano's work was selected by Guest Curator, James Elaine, Curator of UCLA Hammer Projects, as one of CAF's Annual *Call For Entries*, open to artists working in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties.

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Tuesday-Saturday 11-5, Sunday 12-5

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