

SANTA BARBARA CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: November 11, 2006-January 7, 2007

Opening Reception: Saturday November 11, 6-8PM

Daily Tea at 3PM with the artist and other guests

Come on in, relax, and stay awhile! Artist converts Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum to a vacation home, parlor, tea room, and event space.



SALON: Austin Thomas, *A-Framed Social Space*

This November, Santa Barbra Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF) will present the third installment of the **Salon** project series—**Austin Thomas, *A-Framed Social Space***. Over the past several years Thomas has created architectural structures specifically suited for gathering and interaction. Called "perches," these sites are functional and artful spaces set-off from the everyday. For *Salon*, Thomas will transform CAF's Norton gallery into an A-frame vacation home, complete with screen door and parlor. In this new perch, the artist will hold host a series of free public

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events—origami classes, book readings, storytelling, potlucks and more. Daily tea will also be served at 3PM to gallery visitors. When Thomas is not there to play hostess, visitors can enjoy and relax within this indoor retreat space.

Austin Thomas' perches include people and place as an integral aspect and are not complete until they draw people into them. Rather than functioning as static objects or sculptural displays, Thomas understands the perches as event pieces that galvanize people. For ***A-Framed Social Space***, Thomas promotes contemplation and interaction of all kinds, and offers a new point of view from which to take in one's surroundings. From the perspective of Thomas's perch, CAF is re-imagined as a place for observation, contemplation and consumption.

This is the third exhibition in the series of artist projects entitled **Salon**. Begun in April 2006, **Salon** artists transform CAF's Norton Gallery into a moveable feast of programs, interventions, and opportunities for public engagement, as it launches a new series of artist projects entitled *Salon*. Artists are invited to create participatory work that blurs the boundaries between gallery, visitor, and artist. CAF has asked artists to address the tradition, begun in the living rooms of the 18th Century French women, to employ the interaction of a diverse group of literary, artistic and cultural figures to foster an open, transitory, and discursive space.

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. Celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2006-2007, CAF is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco, presenting 15-18 exhibitions annually. ***A-Framed Social Space*** 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.