

# SANTA BARBARA CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### Exhibition

*Sanford Biggers: Moon Medicine* and **Bloom Projects:** Melanie Schiff, *Stones*

Opening Reception: **SAT. MAR. 6, 7-9 PM**, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum **FREE**

On View: **MAR. 6 – MAY 2, 2010**, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum **FREE**

**Forum Lounge:** *Sanford Biggers*, with special guests *Gamelan Sinar Surya* and *DJ Jahi Sundance*

**THUR. APR. 1, 7 PM**, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum **FREE**



Left: **Sanford Biggers**, *Constellation*, 2009. Steel, Plexiglas, LED's, Zoopoxy, cotton quilt, original printed cotton tile. Dimensions variable, Installation at Harvard University. Courtesy the Artist and Michael Klein Arts, New York, NY.

Right: **Sanford Biggers**, *Seen*, 2009, Video still, Digital C-print, 30 x 40 in. Courtesy the Artist and Michael Klein Arts, New York, NY.

The Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum presents a major West Coast exhibition of new work by internationally acclaimed artist, Sanford Biggers. The 2009 recipient of the prestigious William H. Johnson Prize, Biggers' affecting and thought provoking work will debut at CAF with a self-titled exhibition *Sanford Biggers: Moon Medicine*. About the exhibition in Santa Barbara, the artist states, "*Moon Medicine* encompasses the breadth of my practice, showcasing photography, video, installation and performance. It is a thematic, multi-disciplinary exploration of past themes and new themes meant to broaden and complicate our read on American history."

Informed by living in the United States, Europe, and Japan, Biggers' work references Buddhism, Indo-European Voodoo, African American history, Jazz, hip hop culture and a range of other influences to underscore notions of interconnectedness and hybridity. Accompanying this tour-de-force exhibition is a scholarly exhibition catalog written by CAF Executive Director, Miki Garcia. Garcia states, "We are proud to produce the artist's first publication entirely dedicated to his practice despite showing internationally and being the recipient of numerous awards, fellowships, and residencies. With this exhibition and catalog, CAF succeeds in its mission to support the most compelling artists of our time and to bring world-class programming to the Tri-Counties."

A native of Los Angeles, CA, Biggers is a resident of New York, NY, where he teaches at Columbia University, New York, NY. He received a B.A. from Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL and studied at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME. The 2009 recipient of the coveted William H. Johnson Prize, Biggers has won several awards (including the Creative Capital Project Grant and Camille Hanks-Cosby Fellowship) and participated in prestigious artist residencies and fellowships.

This exhibition has been made possible in part by the generous support of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Susan E. Bower, Cyndee Howard, Barry and Jill Kitnick, Jacquelyn Klein-Brown, Jon and Lillian Lovelace, Mike Healy and Tim Walsh, and Kimberly Hahn and James Van Arsdale of Myopia Design. Special thanks to Wayne McCall and Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

Related Events:

## THUR. APR. 1, 7 PM

**Forum Lounge:** *Sanford Biggers*, with special guests *Gamelan Sinar Surya* and DJ *Jahi Sundance*. Biggers performs a unique mash-up of his own music, accompanied by Los Angeles based DJ Jahi Sundance, live video mixing, and a Santa Barbara's own gamelan choir ensemble from Gamelan Sinar Surya. This performance demonstrates his talent as a musician and songwriter who has written music for recording artists, such as Martin Luther (Rebel Soul Records) and Rich Medina (Kindred Spirits Records). Drawing from ancient African and Asian musical traditions, stream of consciousness, hip hop culture, and projected images, Biggers offers a collective audience interaction allowing people to connect with the exhibition on view in a real, but subtle way. Co-presented by Gamelan Sinar Surya and The Brotherhood of Santa Barbara.

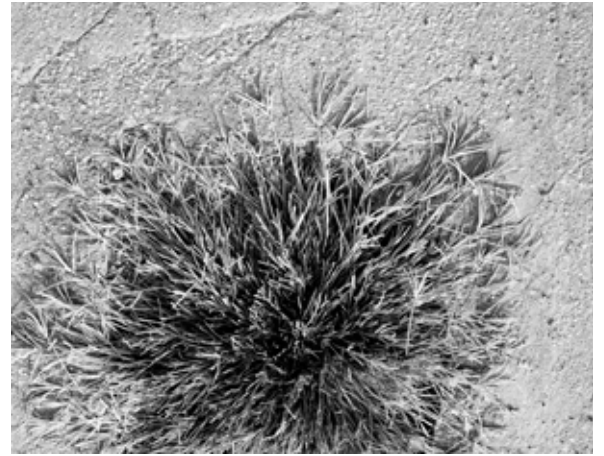
**About the Forum Lounge Series:** The **Forum Lounge** is a series of free, performance-based events that reflect CAF's mission to sustain and encourage the artistic process by presenting art in the form of exceptional music, dance, video, and other multi-media to our community.

Funding and support for the '09-'10 **Forum Lounge** season generously provided by: Endevertmusic Productions, the Franciscan Inn, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Official media sponsors: KCSB and the Santa Barbara Independent. **Forum Lounge** is presented in association with the Santa Barbara Downtown Organization's 1st Thursday.

## **Bloom Projects:** Melanie Schiff, *Stones*

CAF is proud to present never-before-shown photographs by contemporary artist Melanie Schiff. A relative newcomer to Los Angeles, Schiff explores the cityscape, employing formal elements of the medium's most ubiquitous type: the still life. Her stark photographs expose how empty a city can feel and how the remnants of humans, though cast off and overlooked, can become sentimental, quiet moments wavering on the edge of a constructed poetic narrative.

Schiff studied at University of London, Goldsmiths College, London, UK, received a B.F.A from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY and an M.F.A. from the University of Illinois, Chicago, Chicago, IL. Her work has been in numerous exhibitions including the *2008 Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY and a solo exhibition entitled *The Mirror*, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago, IL. She teaches at Pitzer College, Claremont, CA.



**Melanie Schiff**, *bush*, 2010, archival inkjet, 20 x 24 in. Courtesy the Artist.

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

**About the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum:** 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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.

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