

SANTA BARBARA CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Forum Lounge:** Susan Simpson, *Exhibit A*

**Performance:** THUR. FEB. 4, 7 PM & 8 PM, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum **FREE**

Susan Simpson pulls the strings in this performance with small-scale puppetry and faux landscapes layered with live feed video. A collaboration between architects and puppet theatre artists, invented characters explore an unstable environment without the signifiers and visual cues of the regulated world we currently inhabit.



Top and Left: **Susan Simpson, Katie Shook, Susan Simpson, Tom Pejic, and Monica Oller**; Image from *Exhibit A* at The Manual Archives. Top (detail).

*Exhibit A* is a tale of obsessive collecting and cataloguing, cultural survival, and an imagined post-apocalyptic landscape. Simpson uses live feed video, miniature environments and hand-made special effects to create a fragile live cinematic spectacle. This is a loose, elliptical narrative exploring early science fiction fandom and the dream of an androgynous utopian future. It is inspired by gay activist and collector Jim Kepner who was deeply involved with both science fiction fandom and the collection and cataloguing of gay ephemera.

An experimental theatre artist, Susan Simpson is known for her use of intricate marionettes and unusual film projections to create captivating performances of puppet theatre. Simpson is co-founder of The Manual Archives, a micro theatre and exhibition space devoted to the presentation of newly discovered and invented folklore of Los Angeles.

**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. The series encourages experiences with unique performance pieces ranging from the theatrical to the avant-garde that are normally found only in large metropolitan venues.

Funding and support for the '09-'10 **Forum Lounge** season generously provided by: Endevermusic Productions, the Franciscan Inn, the Make Studio, 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.

**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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