



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (March 11, 2010)

*The Art of Play; Toys and Games in Assemblage*

Art Opening and Artist's Reception on Saturday, March 27

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Art of Play Exhibition: March 27- May 8

AFS Gallery

302 East Cota St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101

CONTACT: Art From Scrap: (805) 884-0459

EMAIL: [afsadmin@artfromscrap.org](mailto:afsadmin@artfromscrap.org)

WEB: [www.artfromscrap.org](http://www.artfromscrap.org)

### ***'The Art of Play: Toys and Games in Assemblage'***

#### **Art Opening and Reception**

SANTA BARBARA: Many of Santa Barbara's finest assemblage artists will exhibit their work in *The Art of Play; Toys and Games in Assemblage* show that opens at the AFS Gallery on March 27, with an Artist's Reception from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. The artists participating in the show: Mike Blaha, Stacie Bouffard, Carol Kemp, Rod Lathim, Penny Mast McCall, Syd McCutcheon, Judy Nilsen, Mary Price, Elena Mary Siff, Charlotte Valestra, and James Van Arsdale, are probably familiar names to those who love assemblage art. For those new to assemblage, the show

promises to be a wonderful introduction to this art form where found objects are combined in three-dimensional collage.

Mary Price, the curator of the show, says that “*The Art of Play* exhibition will display a variety of different approaches to assemblage; from the lighthearted and childlike, to the darkly humorous, poignant, and melancholy.” Price hopes that “many viewers of the show will come away feeling inspired and interested in creating assemblage art of their own.”

Cay Sanchez, executive director of Art From Scrap, states, “The artists in this show frequently use toys and games in their art to encourage a wide range of responses from the viewer, not only for joy, exploration and innocence, but also to work through deeper issues and even to express darker aspects of the human experience. The symbolism of toys and games can be personal or universal, but it is potentially powerful when incorporated into art.”

*The Art of Play; Toys and Games in Assemblage* opens at the AFS Gallery on Saturday, March 27, with an Artist’s Reception from 5:00 - 7:00 pm and will be on exhibition until Monday, May 8, 2010. Price believes that, “The AFS Gallery provides the perfect venue for assemblage artists because Art From Scrap is the quintessential site for found objects in Santa Barbara.”

The AFS Gallery wants to acknowledge Play it Again Sports, Replay; Used Toy and Collectible Store, and Kernohan’s Toys for their support with *The Art of Play*.

About Art From Scrap: Art From Scrap is Santa Barbara’s Environmental Education and Art Center. The AFS Gallery is located upstairs at Art From Scrap. Rotating shows hang throughout the year bringing together art lovers, collectors and local artists.

CONTACT: Jill Cloutier

PHONE: (805) 884-0459

EMAIL: [afsadmin@artfromscrap.org](mailto:afsadmin@artfromscrap.org)

AFS Gallery Hours: Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thurs. - 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.

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