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FROM:

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ASSEMBLAGE OF FOUR AT AFS GALLERY

Tony Askew, Judy Nilsen, Ron Robertson, and Dug Uyesaka are joining forces to present an art exhibit entitled "Assemblage of Four" at the AFS Gallery from November 16 – December 20, 2008. This all-star group exhibit is the finale of the 2008 calendar at Art From Scrap's assemblage art showcase, which is located at 302 East Cota Street in downtown Santa Barbara. An artist reception, open to the public, will be held on Saturday, November 15, from 5:00 until 7:00 pm.

All four artists will be presenting several pieces of new work , expressing their own unique approach to assemblage. In addition, each has created one piece using a common object, a tiny glass vial, selected from the Art From Scrap warehouse. The exhibit will be an opportunity to compare and contrast the techniques and styles of four highly individual artists well-known for their assemblage work.

Tony Askew has been inspiring Santa Barbara artists for over 35 years. He recently retired from Westmont College, where he served as Professor of Art and Director of the Reynolds Gallery. The assemblages Askew has created for this exhibit use a cigar box as their foundation. He describes his work as “an accidental narrative,” in which the story is left up to the viewer. “These are wall pieces that celebrate the found or recycled object,” Askew said. His assemblages create associations between disparate found objects: “This kind of work for me creates a great path of invented relationships and recycling evangelism,” he said.

Judy Nilsen is a retired educator with an academic background in American folk art, which has been a major influence in her artwork. For each piece she has created for this exhibit, she has selected a quotation from a celebrated source as a starting point, and then combined found materials to interpret its meaning. “Many people smile and chuckle as human wisdom becomes art,” she said. Nilsen’s assemblages are infused with joyful vitality and playful humor.

Ron Robertson has been active in the Santa Barbara art scene for nearly forty years. Also a retired educator, he continues to inspire, not only with his artwork, but as leader of an in-studio program for talented high school students. His assemblages have a distinct textural character and patina, influenced by his

time as a commercial abalone diver, as well as his ten year sojourn in Japan.

“The creative process is, for me, a way of expressing a sense of mystery and my need to invent an explanation as well as a question,” said Robertson.

Dug Uyesaka is currently the Santa Barbara Second District Arts Commissioner; he is also an Art Instructor at Laguna Blanca School. His fascination with assemblage can be traced to a boyhood obsession with making things. “Using a defined set of tools, I explore a wide variety of questions,” said Uyesaka. “This falls somewhere between a scientific method and a magical method. The results are often surprising and sometimes surreal.”

AFS Gallery is located upstairs at the Art From Scrap warehouse, 302 East Cota Street, in downtown Santa Barbara. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, and on Thursdays from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. For more information, please contact Art From Scrap at (805) 884-0459 x15.

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