

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (March 9, 2009)

***Cycle*- Opening Reception at Art From Scrap**

Cycle, an exhibition of work by Los Angeles-based artist Dianna Cohen, opens March 28 at the Art From Scrap Gallery, 302 East Cota Street, in downtown Santa Barbara. Opening reception March 28, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. The show runs through May 9. Gallery Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10-2, Thursday 10-6. Dianna Cohen will also lead a “Reinventing Plastic Bags” art workshop on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm in the Art From Scrap Workshop. CONTACT: Art From Scrap Artistic Director, Holly Mackay: (805) 884-0459 ext. 15 or EMAIL: art@artfromscrap.org

SANTA BARBARA:

Cycle, a new exhibition of work by Los Angeles-based multi-media visual artist, painter, and curator Dianna Cohen opens at the Art From Scrap Gallery on March 28, with a reception from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Cohen creates gorgeous, stitched collages out of plastic bags. Her work ranges from small hanging pieces to room-sized installations. She will be exhibiting smaller wall pieces in *Cycle*.

Cohen says, “My upcoming exhibition, *Cycle*, will include works in plastic and newer works which combine plastic bags with cardboard, carton, and organic plant materials. *Cycle* will be a small retrospective of sorts, including works made over the last 9 years.”

In 1991, Cohen began to “play with collage and specifically with the idea of working with recycled and reclaimed or found bits of cardboard, paper market bags, and old advertisements.” She elaborates, “At some point I began to sew these pieces together and then one day added some bits of plastic bags. That was 18 years ago and while I never intended to work with a material such as recovered plastic shopping bags for such an extended length of time, I find that I never lose interest in it. Plastic is so wonderfully malleable, colorful, tactile, architectural, and textile-like. By cutting it up and sewing it or recombining it, I create works which conjure banners and flags, quilts, couture, set design, curtains as well as structures, tents, and houses.”

Cohen is a pioneer in the greening of fine art. Her work has been featured in many major green-themed group exhibitions and festivals. Cohen explains, “I am a child of the 1960’s and grew up taking recycling very, very seriously. I attempt through my work to encourage people to reuse, reduce, and recycle; to reconsider everything that we use and to respect it.”

While Cohen employs plastic bags in her art, her dream is to see the use of such bags phased out in the next few years. She believes that this “would save our seas and the natural habitats all around us, which would ultimately allow us to save ourselves.”

Cohen will teach a “Reinventing Plastic Bags” art workshop on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm in the Art From Scrap Workshop. This workshop is open to the public.

Cohen’s art has been featured on Ed Begley’s environmentally-themed HGTV series and on the CBS EcoZone Project with Daisy Fuentes. Cohen has shown work in solo and group exhibitions at galleries and museums in the US, Europe, Australia, and Africa.

About Art From Scrap: Art From Scrap is Santa Barbara's Environmental Education and Art Center. The Art From Scrap Gallery is located upstairs at the Art From Scrap Reuse Store and offers assemblage artists a unique space dedicated to their art form. Rotating shows hang throughout the year bringing together art lovers, collectors and local artists.

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