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FROM:

Art From Scrap
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ARTISTS' BOOKS FEATURED AT THE AFS GALLERY

A new exhibit, entitled "Book Objects: Recycled, Reseen", showcases artists' books handmade in a variety of formats and sizes from nontraditional and recycled materials. Curated by Elena Mary Siff, the exhibit features the work of twenty-one artists from the tri-counties area. The show runs from April 5 to May 10 at the AFS Gallery at Art From Scrap, 302 East Cota Street, in downtown Santa Barbara. An artists' reception, free to the public, takes place Saturday, April 5 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

Artists' books are, by definition, works of art in the medium of the book. "I try to stretch the idea of a book as far as I can," says curator and renowned book artist Elena Mary Siff. "There are so many mediums and ways of conceiving what a book is. This exhibit is timed to coincide with Earth Day, so participating artists are contributing works that use natural materials, such as twigs and leaves, or that reclaim rejected objects." Siff will also be leading a workshop connected with the exhibit, for artists of all ages, encouraging the use of recycled materials. Entitled "Books From Scrap", the workshop takes place at Art From Scrap Saturday, April 19, from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon.

A significant aspect of artists' books is that form and content are so mutually dependent and adaptable to the artist's medium. For contributing artist Charlotte Valestra, altered books express her particular assemblage aesthetic. "I discovered this medium two

years ago while studying with Bob Ebendorf at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Aspen. Bob is known as a jeweler, but he's also involved in creating artists' books and shared some fantastic techniques in the Anderson Ranch sculpture workshop."

For Julia Ford, the artists' book is way to explore human cultures. "The process of making a book ties in to the role of books within our culture, our views on education and learning processes," she said, "I am curious about communication and understanding through traditional notation systems, text, visual art and storytelling." *Once Upon A Time* is her current work in progress, part of which will be installed at AFS for the exhibition.

"Books have a long, rich history as carriers of information vital to human civilization. Artists' books are less than fifty years old with an intriguing his- and her story of their own," says Pamela Zwehl-burke, another contributing artist, who has made, taught and exhibited artists' books since the early 1970s.

Exhibiting artists are Noah Erenberg, Julia Ford, Linda Foster, Robert Gray, Anne Luther, Bob Mask, Penny Mast McCall, Bill McVicar, Ines Monguio, Sara Norquay, Gail Pine, Mary Price, Sandra and Harry Reese, Lorraine Serena, Elena Mary Siff, Alver Smith, Mary Stanley, Charlotte Valestra, Nina Warner, and Pamela Zwehl-Burke.

The AFS 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 Holly Mackay at Art From Scrap at (805) 884-0459, ext 15.

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