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FROM:

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COLLABORATION IS THE THEME OF "THREE" AT THE AFS GALLERY

A new exhibition, entitled "**Three**", is all about artists' collaborations and the collaborative process. The show runs from February 23 to March 29 at the AFS Gallery at Art From Scrap, 302 East Cota Street, in downtown Santa Barbara. An opening reception, free to the public, takes place Saturday, February 23 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

In December 2007, curators Holly Mackay and Dug Uyesaka invited ten artists to each choose two colleagues to team up with in the medium of their choice, and produce up to three works by mid-February. The classic Surrealist game of Exquisite Corpse was suggested as a starting point, but no limits were imposed on the artist teams except the limit of time.

"The AFS Gallery has always been about bringing people from disparate disciplines and backgrounds together," said Development Associate/Artistic Director Mackay. "This show celebrates people working

together creatively, and all the challenges and opportunities that come with the process.”

Three of the ten groups are family. For Alfred Ramirez and Colleen Kelly, the first choice of collaborators was obvious. “We work together all the time,” said the husband-and-wife artist team. The third collaborator in their team was the wild card for them. “It is the first time we have ever collaborated with our 21-year-old daughter, Isabella, on an art project. She happened to be home from UCLA, where she studies art, for winter break,” said Ramirez. “We didn’t think we could persuade her to work with us” Kelly said “Isabella’s better than both of us, and she knows it.” The Ramirez-Kelly team is pleased with the results of their collaboration, a two-part piece in mixed media. “This project opened a door to more collaboration and generated a number of ideas that can still be explored,” said Kelly.

Tina Wilson is another artist who chose to work on the project with her family. “We love making art together,” said Wilson, of her husband, Ian Smith and daughter Julia Smith, “Drawings, paintings, cardboard constructions... We have no shyness or pretense in working together. “In the case of this project, the collaborative process had its own challenges, as Julia is only two-and –a-half years old. “We had to gear the project to someone so young, to carefully impose limitations, hopefully freeing us all

to be as creative as possible within those limitations. It's so interesting to introduce the random element a toddler brings to things."

Artist Colin Gray could not miss this opportunity to exhibit "Exquisite Corpse" drawings done over the years with his now 18-year-old daughter Chloe, who is currently in the VADA program at Santa Barbara High School. "We've been playing this drawing game together since Chloe was old enough to draw," Gray said. "It's a tradition for us." Gray also worked with Seyburn Zorthian and Margaret Matson on another piece for the show.

Three includes collaborative works by the following artists: Tony Askew, Stacie Bouffard, Susan Clevenger, Colleen Darling, Julia Ford, Colin Gray, Chloe Gray, Gretel Huglin-Ridge, Colleen Kelly, Isabella Kelly-Ramirez, Carol Kemp, Jill Littlewood, Margaret Matson, Penny Mast McCall, Syd McCutcheon, Lori Moore, Judy Nilsen, Sara Norquay, Laurie Pincus, Mary Price, Alf Ramirez, Ron Robertson, Ian Smith, Julia Smith, Mary Stanley, Dug Uyesaka, Tina Wilson, Sara Woodburn, Seyburn Zorthian.

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 or devo@artfromscrap.org

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