



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (December 20, 2011)

Gene Pool Retrospective Exhibition: Alf Ramirez, Colleen Kelly, and Isabella Kelly-Ramirez

Artist's Reception: Friday, January 13, 5:00 to 7:00

AFS Gallery

302 East Cota St. Santa Barbara, CA J

Jill Cloutier: (805) 884-0459 x13

EMAIL: afsadmin@artfromscrap.org

WEB: www.artfromscrap.org

Gene Pool- A Family Retrospective at AFS Gallery

SANTA BARBARA: *Gene Pool* an exhibition featuring the work of Alf Ramirez, Colleen Kelly, and Isabella Kelly-Ramirez opens at the AFS Gallery on Friday, January 13, from 5:00-7:00 pm.

A family exhibition; Ramirez and Kelly are married, Isabella Kelly-Ramirez is their daughter,

Gene Pool promises to highlight the commonalities and differences of this artistic family.

Mary Price, curator of the exhibition says "I am delighted to present this group retrospective of a very talented and interesting artist family. Alf's wonderful assemblages intrigue me because they are so meticulous and humor filled. Not many people are aware of his older work, because these secret marvels have been hidden away in specially-made crates in odd corners of the family home. Colleen is amazing and very prolific. I was motivated by the idea of placing many pieces of her assemblage work together in the gallery because, through them, you can feel her high energy and attention to detail. Izzy is becoming well-known in the Los Angeles art community, as

well as in Santa Barbara. She's a very charming and promising artist, and I'm delighted to have her drawings and collages alongside her parents' assemblage work."

Alf Ramirez has a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His work in *Gene Pool* consists of highly crafted, intricate mixed media assemblage. Some of the pieces include carving and casting on a small scale. Ramirez says, "Language can be a jumping-off point for some of my artwork, starting with the title. I aspire to poetry in that regard, however, the end result is often prose. The work is basically an exploration of my personal history and exploration of life in the United States and in California in particular."

Colleen Kelly is currently working in assemblage, printmaking and bronze-casting. Her art revolves around the themes of housing, architecture, social, political and environmental issues. A well-known Santa Barbara assemblage artist herself, Kelly is excited about *Gene Pool*. Kelly explains, "Over the years I've collaborated with and been influenced by my artist-husband Alfred Ramirez. It's really gratifying to see him get his work out there."

Isabella Kelly-Ramirez's artwork is usually figure-based with surreal and expressionistic qualities combined. Inspired by her early involvement of theatre, parade, and masquerade, Kelly-Ramirez is interested in depicting characters by way of pattern, texture and cosmetic color palettes.

She elaborates, "I grew up with artists in a house that was and still is one big studio. My artistic style is a hybrid from both parents. The color, pattern and whimsy come from my mom. The gesture, line, and dark irony comes from my dad."

Mark your calendars! Friday, January 13th is opening night for *Gene Pool*; the show will hang through February 25th, 2012. This event is free and open to the public.

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. Summer Gallery Hours: Tues. Wed. Fri. and Sat.-10-3, Thurs. 10-6. Rotating shows hang throughout the year bringing together art lovers, collectors and local artists.

CONTACT: Jill Cloutier

PHONE: (805) 884-0459 extension 13

EMAIL: afsadmin@artfromscrap.org

Art From Scrap

302 East Cota Street

Santa Barbara, CA

93101

www.artfromscrap.org

###