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**FROM:**

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**MACKAY'S SHARP FOCUS ON MATERIAL EXCESS MARKS NEW ERA FOR  
AFS GALLERY**

“Paper Cut”, Holly Mackay’s curatorial debut at the AFS Gallery, is an art exhibit that focuses on the creative reuse of paper and pulp-based material. For this show, Mackay has brought together an impressive group of artists: Bob Debris, Noah Erenberg, Julia Ford, Penelope Gottlieb, Saul Gray-Hildenbrand, Lily Guild, Philip Koplin, Hugh Margerum, Virginia McCracken, Bill McVicar, Rafael Perea de la Cabada, Gail Pine, Keith Puccinelli, Elena Mary Siff, Matt Straka, Joan Tanner, Dug Uyesaka, and Tina Wilson. These artists deal with the theme of recycling paper using a wide range of media, including drawing, collage, print, photography, assemblage, sculpture and installation. The results are designed to encourage a thoughtful and positive response to the material excesses of the holiday season. The show runs from January 12 through February 16, 2008; an opening reception, free to the public, takes place Saturday, January 12 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The AFS Gallery is located upstairs at Art From Scrap, 302 East Cota Street, in downtown Santa Barbara.

“My idea is to start each year off at the AFS Gallery with a show that has a single material as its theme, and invite a group of artists to interpret the creative re-use of that material incorporating their own medium,” said Mackay. “Excess and waste are so

prevalent in our culture, and are especially apparent during the holidays. I think the New Year a great time to take a fresh, positive look at how we can best deal with these undesirable abundances.”

Mackay is Art From Scrap’s Artistic Director and Development Associate; she takes on her additional new role as AFS Gallery Curator with a great deal of enthusiasm. “The AFS Gallery is such a highly trafficked area. Before I started working here I had no idea how many people, both children and adults, pass through our gallery space.” said Mackay. “I quickly came to appreciate the wonderful symbiosis of the multi use AFS Workshop and the AFS Gallery, which surrounds it, exposing children to the work of professional artists, and, at the same time, validating and celebrating the creative use of scrap materials.”

An artist herself, Mackay has no shortage of creative inspiration or connections. For 5 years she was employed at Santa Barbara’s Contemporary Arts Forum, and volunteered there for years before that. She’s ready and able to bring more people than ever through the AFS Gallery space. Her 2008 program includes five group shows (including the ever-popular Annual Juried Assemblage Art Show) two solo artist shows and two student shows. She is working closely with artist-instructors on a program of Saturday workshops that tie in directly to the exhibits on display. According to Mackay, the program is designed to inspire the community to incite and enact positive cultural and environmental change through art.

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

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