

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

El Puente Student Show at Art From Scrap

Artist's Reception at the Art From Scrap Gallery, 302 East Cota Street, on Saturday, January 10th, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Show opens January 3rd and runs through January 10th, 2009. Gallery Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 -2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00, and Saturdays 10:00- 3:00. CONTACT: Art From Scrap Artistic Director, Holly Mackay: (805) 884-0459 ext. 15 or EMAIL: devo@artfromscrap.org

SANTA BARBARA: El Puente Students will be showing their photographs in an exhibition at the Art From Scrap Gallery, located above the Art From Scrap Reuse Store at 302 East Cota Street in downtown Santa Barbara. The show opens January 3rd and runs through January 10th with an artist's reception on January 10th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The exhibition features the photographs of El Puente Community School students, aged 16-18, who attended a series of classes with documentary photographer Bob Debris at Art From Scrap. Over a two month period, Debris taught the students basic photography skills, gave them digital point and shoot cameras, and asked them to take photographs of anything that captured their imagination. Debris relates, "We told them that they have a very special vision of the world and it would be great if we could see it."

Funded by a **Next Generation** mini-grant, the classes were a collaboration between Art From Scrap, the City of Santa Barbara (in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission), and El Puente Community School. Inspired by the guidance of Bonnie Beadles, the project was facilitated by Gloria Sánchez Arreola of Santa Barbara County Education's Third ACT! Youth Arts Academy, and Holly Mackay, Art From Scrap's Artistic Director.

Gloria Sánchez Arreola explains, "At first, some of the teenagers were afraid of operating the cameras and didn't want to take them home. But, Bob got them comfortable enough to use the cameras as a way to document their lives and show what's really going on for them." Sanchez believes that the classes provided "a good outlet for students and helped them to think about their communities. Most importantly, it helped them feel confident about showing their true selves." Sanchez is especially excited because, "The classes not only help our teenagers express themselves creatively, but by participating, the students also receive academic credit."

Art From Scrap's Artistic Director Holly Mackay says, "It's been a privilege to meet and work with these students. It was awesome and surprising to see how they quietly took control of the project and created some gorgeous images. This show will provide a glimpse into their unique vision. We look forward to working with them again soon."

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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