



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (July 14, 2011)

"Whimsical Curiosities of Laretta Lowell"

July 22nd – September 3rd, 2011

Artist's Reception: Friday, July 22, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

AFS Gallery

302 East Cota St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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***Whimsical Curiosities of Laretta Lowell*– Art Opening at AFS Gallery**

SANTA BARBARA: *Whimsical Curiosities of Laretta Lowell* is the new art exhibition opening at the AFS Gallery on Friday, July 22nd, at 5:00 to 7:00 pm. *Whimsical Curiosities* will feature Laretta Lowell's unusual, clever, tongue in cheek art. Lowell uses vintage and antique findings to produce assemblage sculptures, wall art, jewelry, and furniture.

Lowell, a former Santa Barbara resident, creates her art out of ReUse materials. Lowell "visits junk yards, warehouses, thrift stores, gutters, antique stores, EBAY, and friend's garages for the pieces I use to complete my art." Lowell's goal is to "to capture your curiosity, make you smile and feel like you are experiencing something you have never experienced or seen before."

Lowell has used her art to recover from two strokes and a brain tumor. Over a five year period, she had to relearn how to walk, write, speak, and understand English. In 2001 she began making mixed media collages and whimsical assemblages.

Lowell explains, "Working through art has helped me heal tremendously. I want people to know that through adversity, you can find your true passion and be happier than you ever were. The strokes and brain tumor are what gave me the permission to live in my passion full time."

Mark your calendars! Friday July 22nd is opening night for ***Whimsical Curiosities of Laretta Lowell***, the show will hang through September 3rd. This event is free and open to the public. Join AFS and the Santa Barbara Arts Community to welcome media collage and assemblage artist Laretta Lowell to Santa Barbara.

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.

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