



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCM Opens 3 New Exhibits
Richard Shaw: Four Decades of Ceramics
Adele Akers: Fiber Artist
ArtQuest: A Juried Student Exhibition

(Santa Rosa, CA) December 4, 2009 – The Sonoma County Museum announces the opening of three new exhibits during the months January through May.

Richard Shaw: Four Decades of Ceramics opens with a members preview reception on Friday, January 29th from 5-7pm. The exhibition is open to the public from Saturday, January 30, and runs through Sunday, May 23, 2010.

Artist Richard Shaw is a master at *tromp l'oeil* ceramics, with an ability to transform porcelain into arrays of still life objects that fool the eye and even touch. A long-time Marin County resident, Shaw is associated with Bay Area Funk, a movement characterized by its irreverent, sometimes surreal assemblage of everyday objects.

Since the late 1960s, Shaw has had a major impact on the creative culture of the San Francisco Bay Area. A long-time collaborator with Robert Hudson, he has also worked together with the major Bay Area ceramic artists including, Peter Voukos, Robert Arneson and James Melchert. The SCM exhibit will explore Shaw's career from his Art Institute days in the 1960s to the present. Approximately 40 works will be selected from private collections and museums in the Bay Area and from the artist. Shaw will participate in the selection process as will Michael Schwager, Professor at Sonoma State University and adjunct Curator for the di Rosa Preserve. This retrospective exhibition draws upon Shaw's work from the 1960s through the present and is his first solo museum exhibition in over a decade.

Adela Akers: Fiber Artist opens with a members preview reception on Friday, January 29th from 5-7pm. The exhibition is open to the public from Saturday, January 30 and runs through Sunday, May 23, 2010.

The Sonoma County Museum is pleased to present an exhibition of the work of fiber artist Adela Akers. Akers was born in Spain, raised in Cuba and went on to study at the Art Institute of Chicago and later at the renowned Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. For over twenty years, from 1972 -1995, she was a professor and chair of fiber arts at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia. After so many travels and such a distinguished career, Akers now resides in Guerneville and continues creating the rich and detailed weavings that have made her a highly regarded artist.

Drawing inspiration from African and South American textiles, Akers creates woven compositions of simple geometric shapes, bands, zigzags and checks. Many of her works incorporate meticulously measured and cuts strips of metal from recycled wine bottle caps, creating a richness and luminous quality. She also frequently employs stiff horsehair extending in

front or beyond the borders of the weaving adding texture and dimensionality. The Museum recently received a donation of one of Akers' weavings and has gratefully added it to the permanent collection.

ArtQuest: A Juried Student Exhibition opens with a members preview reception on Friday, February 5th from 5-7pm. The exhibition is open to the public on Saturday, February 6th and runs through Friday, March 19, 2010.

The Sonoma County Museum is proud to present the 2nd Annual ArtQuest juried student art exhibition. This award-winning public school program at Santa Rosa High School connects the passion, commitment and discipline of the Arts to the energy of academic study.

ArtQuest offers seven Arts disciplines as specialty focuses and students enroll for two hours daily in their Arts Specialty in most levels and areas. Arts Specialties in the Studio Arts include Digital Arts, Photography, Video and Visual Fine Arts. Dance, Theatre Arts and Vocal and Instrumental Music are offered in the Performing Arts. Curriculum is organized around both the California Content Standards in the Arts and the California Visual and Performing Arts Framework, incorporating the five components of Arts Education: Artistic Perception; Creative Expression; Historical and Cultural Context; Aesthetic Valuing; and Connections/ Relationships/ Applications.

About Sonoma County Museum:

Founded in 1985, the Sonoma County Museum is the region's only art and history museum with a collection of over 20,000 objects.

Through the preservation of collections and the presentation of exhibitions and programs, the Museum attracts more than 28,000 people annually. As its flagship program, the Museum & Schools Program is ongoing throughout the school calendar year and provides students and teachers with free/subsidized bussing, guided tours of the museum, hands-on materials for additional learning, and free Educator Guides for teachers – following CA State Content Standards. For more information, please visit the Museum's website at www.sonomacountymuseum.org.

Hours:

Tuesday – Sunday, 11am -5pm, Closed Major Holidays

Admission:

\$5 general, \$2 for students & seniors

Location:

425 7th Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Website:

www.sonomacountymuseum.org

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