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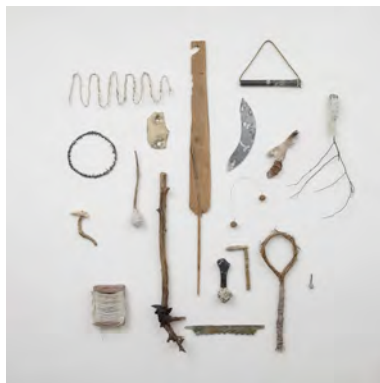
**Exhibitions:** *A Handful of Dust* and **Bloom Projects:** Molly Smith, *Root*

**Opening Reception: Saturday, January 26, 6:30–8 pm**, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum

**Exhibitions on view:** January 27 – March 24, 2013, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum

**ADMISSION IS FREE**

CAF presents *A Handful of Dust*, organized by visiting curator Laura Fried, comprised of sculptural works that reexamine the fundamental qualities of material. New York-based sculptor Molly Smith will be featured in the latest iteration of **Bloom Projects**.



Left to right: Erin Shirreff, *Untitled (Series 1)*, 2009, Gelatin silver print, 16 x 20 in., Courtesy the Artist and Lisa Cooley, New York, NY; Jay Heikes, *No Age*, 2012, Mixed media, 74 x 70 x 5 in., Courtesy the Artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY; Mark Hagen, *Untitled*, 2008, Obsidian on canvas over panel, 8 ft. 1/2 in. x 72 in., Courtesy the Artist and International Art Objects, Los Angeles, CA.

The notion of “prehistory,” as evidenced in material remains and artifacts, compels us to explore crucial connections between an innate desire to make and to hold, and the social values that determine what humans create and why. *A Handful of Dust* brings together a group of artists who utilize sculpture to craft a material vernacular at once ancient and contemporary. Recalling those postwar artists whose three-dimensional practices relied on a discreet, visual language—the haunting white forms of Cy Twombly; Eva Hesse’s small, raw material experiments; or the slender totemic *Personages* by Louise Bourgeois—a young generation of artists now fashions relics for our contemporary moment. In this exhibition, spare, complex constructions made of wood, plaster, stone, and bronze, or captured on the page or on film, evoke archaic artifacts, rooted to the earth, reaching back to the past and firmly securing the place of the object, and its capacity to communicate, in the present.

While the readymade, the appropriated, and the fabricated object have become so pervasive in contemporary art that they no longer challenge, but instead define a prevailing approach to sculptural practice, the artists featured in this exhibition are instead deeply invested in the organic and the handmade, and how the most fundamental plastic materials and forms can be imbued with the strata of time. Representing a range of media and process, these artists closely consider themes of timelessness and dissociation, archeology and collecting, communication, and the complex yet transformative power and voice of even the most elemental sculptural tool. At once invoking and fracturing the familiar tropes of landscape, artifact, model, and monument, these objects—fragile, mutable, and potent—beg the most intimate visual encounters while summoning our human desire to behold what the hand can shape.

Artists in the exhibition include Mark Hagen, Jay Heikes, Matt Hoyt, Erin Shirreff, Ricky Swallow, Zin Taylor, and Allyson Vieira.

Special thanks to: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York, NY; *Casa Magazine*, Santa Barbara, CA; The James Irvine Foundation, San Francisco, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*, CA; *Santa Barbara News-Press*, CA; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

## **Bloom Projects: Molly Smith, *Root***

During a visit to Santa Barbara, Molly Smith collected materials to use in her work including natural matter and found refuse. Inspired by patterns and phenomena seen in the surrounding area, Smith creates abstracted forms and mural-sized collages, which reflect the world outside the gallery space.

New York-based, Molly Smith received her MFA from Columbia University, New York, NY, and a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI. She has recently shown at KS Art, New York, NY; Gallery Min Min, Tokyo, Japan; and Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH. She is represented by Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY.

Special thanks to: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York, NY; Susan E. Bower Exhibition Fund; *Casa Magazine*, Santa Barbara, CA; Eric Chirnside, Santa Barbara, CA; The James Irvine Foundation, San Francisco, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*, CA; *Santa Barbara News-Press*, CA; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.



Molly Smith, *Sure*, 2012, Hydrocal, pigment, weight, rocks, and wood, 75 x 4 x 6 in., Courtesy the Artist and Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY

CAF's progressive art evening begins at 5 pm for the opening of *Limuw: An Ode to the Sea* at CAF Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara and moves onto CAF for the opening of *A Handful of Dust* and **Bloom Projects: Molly Smith, *Root*** at 6:30 pm.

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**About the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum:** The Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF) is a non-profit, non-collecting alternative art space dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the arts of our time. Celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, CAF is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. CAF is located at the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. New in 2012: visit our second location, CAF Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at 121 State Street! For more information call CAF at (805) 966-5373, or Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at (805) 966-6586.

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