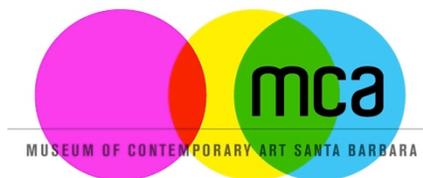


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**For Immediate Release.**

**Exhibitions:** *Requiem for the Bibliophile*: Jorge Méndez Blake, Carlos Garaicoa, Nancy Gifford, David Horvitz, Emily Jacir, Xaviera Simmons, and Mickey Smith, and **Bloom Projects**: Lisa Tan, *Sunsets*

**Opening reception:** Saturday, September 6, 6 – 8 pm

**Exhibitions on view:** September 7 – December 14, 2014, Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara **FREE ADMISSION**

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) presents *Requiem for the Bibliophile*, a group exhibition that features seven distinguished artists whose works consider the library of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, acknowledging this ancient establishment's cultural transformation and offering a diverse vision of its next manifestation.

MCASB will also present a video by a Stockholm-based artist that challenges how the limits of language affect the interpretation of creative work in **Bloom Projects**: Lisa Tan, *Sunsets*.



Left to right: Jorge Mendez Blake, *Project for an Empty Library I*, 2011, Wood, mirror, metallic plinth, 39 x 24 x 50 in., Courtesy the Artist; Mickey Smith, *Collocation No. 12 (TIME I)*, 2009, Archival Pigment Prints on Canvas, Four 81 x 54 in. panels, Courtesy of Invisible-Exports. Photo: Marty Walker Gallery; Carlos Garaicoa, *Theory and Practice in the 18th Brumaire of K. Marx*, 2009, Wooden bookshelf and books, 28.5 x 46 x 8 in., Courtesy the Artist

***Requiem for the Bibliophile***

*"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."* Jorge Luis Borges

Throughout the ages, humanity has created, destroyed, rescued, neglected, discovered, stolen, and cherished libraries. Libraries have been thought of as a kind of "temple of books," places for peace and quiet, to read and think. They are intricate parts of the fabric that pulls a community together, illuminating the human condition and indexing knowledge in different societies. Today, the Internet, digital technology, and electronic data preservation have overtaken the literary world, changing the present and future of recorded knowledge, documentation, and memory. In the exhibition *Requiem for the Bibliophile*, six artists present works in response to the current condition of this time-honored institution and introduce multiple perspectives on the modern library's imminent evolution.

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Because libraries stand in parallel to art museums as vessels of civilization's reminiscences, visual art maintains an ineluctable connection to the written and spoken word secured in libraries. The artists in *Requiem for the Bibliophile* examine the library's role as a vital part of society, interpreting how this institution continues to influence the art of our time. Historical and current phenomena that affect the library system will be examined vis à vis artistic production of **Jorge Méndez Blake** (b. 1974, Guadalajara, Mexico), **Carlos Garaicoa** (b. 1967, Havana, Cuba), **Nancy Gifford** (Montecito, CA), **David Horvitz** (b. 1982, Brooklyn, NY), **Emily Jacir** (b. 1970, Bethlehem, Palestine), **Xaviera Simmons** (b. 1974, New York, NY), and **Mickey Smith** (b. 1972, Auckland, New Zealand). In newly commissioned and recent works ranging from architectural proposals to large-scale installations, they explore the library via concepts of diversity, strategic redundancy, innovation, and experimentation.

*Requiem for the Bibliophile* posits the notion of resilience and adaptation in a constantly shifting world, while making room for meaningful recognition of our intellectual and communal values. "The visual arts and the literary arts are reinventing their relationship to one another and libraries are redefining their future," explains Decemvirale. "This exhibition articulates these symbiotic connections and contributes to the cultural field for generations to come."

This exhibition is co-organized by MCASB Executive Director and Chief Curator Miki Garcia and Organizing Curator J.V. Decemvirale. Decemvirale is a Ph.D. student in the History of Art and Architecture at the University of California, Santa Barbara and Exhibition Research Assistant for the Center of Nanotechnology in Society at UC Santa Barbara. He received his BA in Art History from New York University and his MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, London. Prior to his work at MCASB, he worked in the J.Paul Getty Museum's Exhibitions and Public Programs Department.

Special Thanks to: The James Irvine Foundation, San Francisco, CA; Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center, Santa Barbara, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*, CA; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

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Lisa Tan, *Sunsets*, 2013, HD video with sound, Courtesy the Artist

### **Bloom Projects: Lisa Tan, *Sunsets***

*Sunsets* (2012) is a video by Stockholm-based artist Lisa Tan that confronts the limits of language in giving meaning to creative work. In an informal and at times difficult to follow Portuguese-to-English translation and transcription of an interview with esteemed Brazilian novelist Clarice Lispector (1920-1977), the writer is asked philosophical and technical questions about her work. In between the muffled recordings of the interviewer and interviewee's voices, the translator struggles to find appropriate words in English, pausing, correcting herself, her clear voice followed by rapid clicks of a keyboard. Lispector is only periodically seen, sitting cross-legged in a television studio during her 1977 interview, while the remainder of the video entails long takes of the threshold time between night and day—scenes of Tan's studio and home, and, beyond these spaces, of subtly lit twilight skies. If the conversation verges on incomprehensible, there remains an understanding of Lispector; a transmission of knowledge occurs amidst interruptions, silence, and uncertainty.

Lisa Tan (b. 1973, New York, USA) works in video, photography, and installations to explore the intricate relationship between language and experience. Her work has been presented in several exhibitions and screenings, including *Duets*, Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art, Lisbon; *Encore!*, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm; *Just what is it that makes today so familiar, so uneasy?*, LIAF Lofoten International Art Festival, Norway; *On the Passage of a Few*, Simon Preston, New York; *The Mind Was Dreaming*, Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, Dublin; and she co-curated the exhibition *Cimetière d'Ixelles* with Lisa Oppenheim at Art in General, New York. Tan received an MFA from the Roski School of Fine Arts, University of Southern California (USC), in Los Angeles. She currently lives in Stockholm, Sweden.

Special thanks to: The James Irvine Foundation, San Francisco, CA; Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center, Santa Barbara, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*, CA; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

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#### **About Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara:**

The Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is a non-profit, non-collecting museum dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the arts of our time. Formerly Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF), MCASB is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. MCASB is located at the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. Visit our second location, MCASB Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at 121 State Street.

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