



Santa Barbara
CONTEMPORARY ARTS FORUM

For Immediate Release.

Exhibitions: Call For Entries 2011: Desiree D'Alessandro, Elizabeth Kunath, Luke Matjas, Michael Powell, Leighton Collier Roux

Bloom Projects: Dawit L. Petros, *Mahber Shaw'ate (Association of 7)*

Opening Reception and Performances: Saturday, August 6, 6:30-8 pm Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum **ADMISSION IS FREE**

Exhibitions on view: August 7 – October 9, 2011, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum **ADMISSION IS FREE**

The Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF) presents our region's up-and-coming contemporary artists in **Call For Entries 2011** and features Brooklyn-based Dawit L. Petros' *Mahber Shaw'ate (Association of 7)*, the next in his ongoing series entitled **Single Cube Formation**.



Left to right: Luke Matjas, *Model of the Energy Input, Output, and Transfers in the Always Strange and Surprising Animal Kingdom (Detail)*, 2008, Digital/Analog Drawing, 96 x 40 in., Courtesy the Artist; Michael Powell, *Myth/Medium*, 2011, Wood, digital print, paint, and plastic, 42 x 42 in., Courtesy the Artist

Call For Entries 2011: Desiree D'Alessandro, Elizabeth Kunath, Luke Matjas, Michael Powell, Leighton Collier Roux
CAF showcases five stand-outs from the tri-counties in our annual Call For Entries (CFE) group exhibition, an opportunity that invited the artists to present newly commissioned work in the galleries. Guest curated by Kim Beil, the exhibition ranges in media, gender, and point of view, reflecting the sophistication and diversity of our region. Artists Leighton Collier Roux and Desiree D'Alessandro will present performance artworks during the Opening Reception.

Applicants were selected in Fall 2010 by a panel of distinguished jurors made up of artists and art professionals currently working in the visual arts field including: Kim Beil, Independent Art Writer, Santa Barbara, CA; Stephanie Dotson, Artist and Assistant Printmaking Professor at Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara, CA; Rachel Gugelberger, Independent Curator, New York, NY; and Annie Wharton, Gallery Director at Annie Wharton Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

Special thanks to: *Casa Magazine*, Santa Barbara, CA; Joe LaCorte Design, Santa Barbara, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*; *Santa Barbara News-Press*; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

Bloom Projects: Dawit L. Petros, *Mahber Shaw'ate (Association of 7)*

Petros presents *Mahber Shaw'ate (Association of 7)*, a series of photographs liberally inspired by an African alphabet and Western minimalist traditions to present new hybrids stemming from seemingly dissimilar cultures. Invited to Santa Barbara in the Spring of 2011, Petros constructed temporary sculptural installations composed of cardboard boxes in arrangements that reference Tigrinya, a sequential African alphabet script and the artist's native tongue. Using performative strategies, sculpture, installation, and legacies of landscape imagery to inform his work, Petros creates, from these installations, a series of minimal photographic tableaux.



Born in Asmara, Eritrea, Dawit L. Petros was raised in Kenya and Canada and now resides in Brooklyn, NY. He received a B.F.A., Concordia University, Montreal, Canada; and an M.F.A., School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA. Petros has shown in numerous venues including The Studio Museum, New York, NY; Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York, NY; and the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI. He is represented by Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY.

Special thanks to: Susan E. Bower Exhibition Fund, Santa Barbara, CA; *Casa Magazine*, Santa Barbara, CA; Brush & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*; *Santa Barbara News-Press*; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

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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 35th anniversary in 2011, CAF is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. CAF is located at the Paseo Nuevo Mall Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. CAF is open Tuesday - Saturday: 11 am - 5 pm, Sunday: noon - 5 pm.

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