



## New Directions

"I appreciate new communities and making a new home in a place and for a project I feel passionate about," says Abaseh Mirvali, who arrived in Santa Barbara last fall to step in as executive director of the **MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART SANTA BARBARA** (MCASB). "I couldn't be more excited about being here." She certainly brings an international perspective to her new post. Mirvali spent her childhood in San Francisco and graduated from UC Santa Cruz but as a director and independent curator has worked at museums and on exhibitions that range from Mexico City to Denver, and from Istanbul and Toronto to Berlin.

Her first show at MCASB focuses on contemporary Italian artist Lara Favaretto, whose practice spans found-object sculptures, performance, installation, and video. "Her work is about the human condition," says Mirvali. "She comments on how we treat things, how we discard them. There's always a duality or a hidden difference—two sides to a story."

Notably the exhibit on view through April 28 occupies four varied venues, MCASB's current home in Paseo Nuevo; the Glass Box Gallery at UC Santa Barbara; a repurposed downtown storefront on State Street; and a lot at 35 Anacapa Street in the Funk Zone that is slated to become MCASB's future home. "This will create a corridor of movement," notes Mirvali, and also highlight the importance of collaboration—with the university, with the city, and with the public.

"It's been a dream of mine to build a museum of a certain size," she says. "I think about what it can do to serve a community. I want to make it a hub for social and cultural thought." 653 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara, 805-966-5373. **JOAN TAPPER**

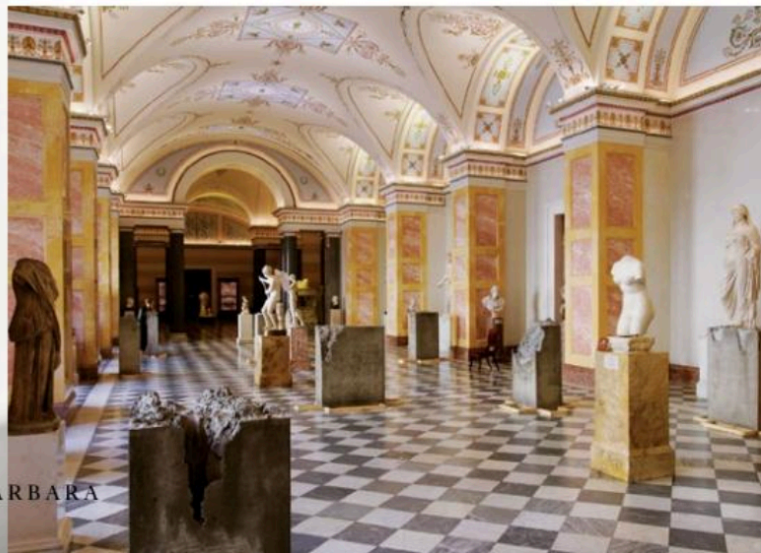
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Clockwise from top: **LARA FAVARETTO's Coppie Semplici (Simple Couples), 2009**, installation view at Sharjah Biennial, UAE, 2009; Favaretto's installation view at "Manifesta 10," Winter Palace, State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia, 2014; MCASB executive director **ABASEH MIRVALI**; Favaretto's *Lost & Found*, 1998.



SANTA BARBARA



PHOTOGRAPHS: TOP AND BOTTOM RIGHT, COURTESY THE ARTIST AND GALLERIA FRANCO NOERO, TORINO, ITALY; PORTRAIT, ANA HOP; LOST & FOUND, COURTESY THE ARTIST; RENNIE COLLECTION, VANCOUVER, CANADA; AND GALLERIA FRANCO NOERO, TORINO, ITALY. PHOTO: BLAINE CAMPBELL