

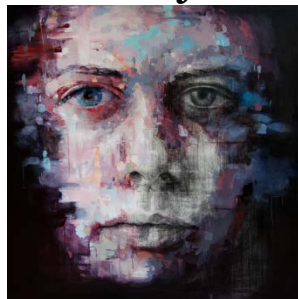


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The Arts Fund Presents:  
2011 IAA AWARD RECIPIENT JAMES PETRUCCI  
Pneuma  
January 20 – March 17, 2012**



**January 13, 2012:** The Arts Fund is pleased to present an exhibition by 2011 Individual Artist Award winner James Petrucci. *James Petrucci: pneuma* will be in The Arts Fund Gallery from **January 20 – March 17, 2012**. The exhibition will open with a public reception for the artist on **Friday, January 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm** at the gallery which is located at 205C Santa Barbara St. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

*Pneuma* will present a diverse range of figurative works and portraits of Santa Barbara artist James Petrucci. Petrucci's paintings are realistic and thoughtful portrayals of his close friends, his children and family. These compositions are depicted with a realist aesthetic while also experimenting with loose impressionistic layers marking the surface of the bodies and faces. 2011 Figurative Works Juror Pamela Schiffer states, "His paintings have qualities that make art both intriguing and delightful. We see a creative mind at play along

with a skilled hand. Exuberant brushwork of controlled “mark-making” is deftly applied to create expressive, full-formed faces or figures. This work is painterly and intelligent.”

**James Petrucci** is a self-taught artist born and raised in Santa Barbara. He has worked and exhibited extensively in Phoenix Arizona. In 2005 he attended a private residency with artists Elias Rivera and Susan Contreras in Santa Fe and in 2009 was a William T. Colville grant recipient.

Petrucci is one of three artists who received The Arts Fund’s Individual Artist Award in 2011. These awards annually identify and reward artistic excellence in Santa Barbara County. This solo exhibition, along with a cash prize of \$2,000, is part of the award. Now in its 24th year, the celebrated program has awarded over \$168,000 in cash prizes and showcased over 135 artists in the visual, literary, and performing arts. Funded entirely through private donations, the IAA is an important component in sustaining artistic vitality in the community.

This exhibition was made possible through the generosity of Christine and Robert Emmons. More images from the show are available upon request. For more information, please call The Arts Fund at (805) 965-7321 or go to [www.artsfundsb.org](http://www.artsfundsb.org).

**Organization Background:**

**The Arts Fund** ([www.artsfundsb.org](http://www.artsfundsb.org)) was established as a nonprofit in 1983 dedicated to fostering the arts in Santa Barbara County. The organization’s formal mission is to create, fund and administer programs and projects that foster the arts for the people of Santa Barbara County, to act as a catalyst maximizing the effectiveness of arts resources, and to nurture collaborative relationships amongst arts organizations.

The Arts Fund is best known as the sponsor of the annual Individual Artist Awards (IAA), a juried competition open to Santa Barbara County artists, and the Teen Arts Mentorship Program that matches promising high school students with professional master artists and writers in a workshop setting. In 2001, The Arts Fund opened The Arts Fund Gallery at 205C Santa Barbara Street at Yanonali in Santa Barbara’s Funk Zone neighborhood. Gallery sales and private donations are an important and essential source of funding for the organization. Please visit [www.artsfundsb.org](http://www.artsfundsb.org) to learn more upcoming programs and events or how to make a donation to support the work of The Arts Fund. The Arts Fund Gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday from 1-5 p.n. and by appointment.

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