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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## 2008 TEEN ARTS MENTORSHIP GROUP EXHIBITION

*ON VIEW: June 6 – July 11, 2008*

*RECEPTION: Friday, June 6, 5:30-7:30pm*

The Arts Fund is pleased to announce the opening of the 2008 Teen Arts Mentorship Group Exhibition on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. More than 60 works in photography, painting and assemblage will highlight the diverse talents of 27 high school students who participated in four mentorship programs led by award-winning master artists Nell Campbell, Pamela Larsson-Toscher, Rafael Perea de la Cabada, and Ron Robertson. The exhibition will be held at the Arts Fund gallery located at 205-C Santa Barbara Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5pm. The exhibition is free and open to the public. From studio setting to public display, the Mentorship Program offers young artists in Santa Barbara County extraordinary access to the artistic experience.

Working in small groups of no more than 8, students receive specialized training, produce portfolio-quality work, gain insight into future careers in creative fields, and participate in a group exhibition in a professional gallery. Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the Mentorship Program strives to enhance arts education in Santa Barbara by providing technical training and art historical appreciation, supporting creative collaborations, encouraging personal exploration, and nurturing the artistic imagination.

Master artists, who include Nell Campbell, Pamela Larsson-Toscher, Rafael Perea de la Cabada and Ron Robertson, teach in one of four respective disciplines: documentary photography, classic oil, contemporary painting, and mixed media. For 10 weeks, students are immersed in instruction, evaluation and peer review. This experience deepens their familiarity with specific art

practices and enriches their understanding of the essential process of self-criticism. Sessions are held in private studios and art classrooms on the campuses of Brooks Institute and Santa Barbara City College.

The 2008 Teen Arts Mentorship Exhibition will feature the work of 27 students from Bishop Diego, Carpinteria, Dos Pueblos, San Marcos, and Santa Barbara High Schools. Participants are as follows: (Nell Campbell/Photography) Devon Carr, Natalia Farfan, Taylor Kall, Maggie McDermut, Sarah Migliaccio, Rachel Rhodes, Elena Shelton, Sam Terrell, and April Wasjutin; (Pamela Larsson-Toscher/Classic Oil Painting) Kendall Burke, Ellen Lewis, Aly Monroe, Ariane Schmidt-Causius, and Angie Yen; (Rafael Perea de la Cabada/Contemporary Painting) Niel Caldwell, Marcos Carreno, Cassie Faulding, Maya Irvine, Eleni McKirahan, Chris Moure, and Sarah Xanthakis; and (Ron Robertson/Mixed Media) Mireya Avila, Jenna Baucke, Katelin Davis, Estefania Delgado, Kelsey Leonard, and Lillian Murphy.

The Arts Fund's commitment to sustaining the arts in our community is well realized through our unique mentorship program. With the generosity of our sponsors, master artists receive financial compensation and the mentorship program is made available at no cost to student participants. Funding for the 2008 Teen Arts Mentorship program was provided by Susan Bower, the Ann Jackson Family Foundation, Ove. W. Jorgensen Foundation, Towbes Foundation, and Wallis Foundation. Professional services were provided by Art Resources, Canyon Fine Art Framing and Samy's Camera. In addition, the Arts Fund acknowledges Santa Barbara City College for classroom access and Brooks Institute for providing their darkroom.

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**Organization Background:**

**The Arts Fund** ([www.artsfundsb.org](http://www.artsfundsb.org)) was established in 1983 as the fund-raising arm of the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission. In 1989, The Arts Fund became an independent non-profit organization with a mission 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.

Through the years, the Fund has worked on projects in partnership with many organizations, including Anger Management, CAMA, Contemporary Arts Forum, the Santa Barbara City Schools, and Santa Barbara Visual Arts Alliance. The Arts Fund is best known as the sponsor of the annual Individual Artist Awards (IAA), a juried competition open to local artists, and the Teen Arts Mentor Program, which, for over a decade, has paired promising young artists with professional master artists in a workshop setting. In 2001, The Arts Fund opened its own gallery, located at the corner of Yanonali and Santa Barbara Streets. Gallery sales and private donations are an important and essential source of funding for the organization so please visit [www.artsfundsb.org](http://www.artsfundsb.org) to learn more about supporting the arts in Santa Barbara.