

PENDING EXHIBITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

For additional images and information: Rita Ferri, County Arts Commission at 805-568-3994.

Exhibition: *Visual Inquiry: Mixed Media, John Hood, Curator*

Dates: February 23 – May 22, 2009 **Hours:** Mon. – Friday, 8am – 5pm, Free to the Public

Location: Betteravia Government Center, 511 E. Lakeside, Santa Maria

Reception: *Wednesday February 25, 2009 from 4-6pm*

IMAGES ATTACHED: Becky Hellwig, (puzzle work), Study 1, 2008

Visual Inquiry: Mixed Media John Hood, Curator

The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission presents, ***Visual Inquiry: Mixed Media, an*** exhibition of regional artists curated by John Hood, from February 23 – May 22, 2009 at the Betteravia Government Center, 511 E. Lakeside, Santa Maria. The opening reception will be Wednesday, February 25, from 4-6pm.

Visual Inquiry: Mixed Media brings together former students of Allan Hancock College, all now exhibiting artists in the community; and current students from the Santa Maria area. The twelve artists include: Karen Carson, Denise Chavoya, Sandra Clouse, John Dilenger, Becky Hellwig, Felicia Kincaid, Dana Litzenger, Jonathan Lord, Claire Milburn, Juan Manuel Perez, Ariana Sarinana and Carey Reimer. The mixed media exhibition brilliantly brings into play all the artistic license artists can bring to bear - utilizing standard images from photography, printmaking, painting and drawing to the wilder side of puzzle pieces, newspapers, sea shells, and yes, even chicken wire.

John Hood is an exhibiting artist and Instructor of Art & Design at Allan Hancock College, and Arts Commissioner from the 5th District. He recently curated the *Altered Mixed Media* exhibition at the Shepard Gallery and is looking forward to curating future shows at the Betteravia Center, as well as designing and installing them with student helpers. *"I am excited by the rich opportunities this mixed media show presents to the community. It is another welcomed cultural event at the Betteravia gallery and a gift to the general public. To be offered a chance to showcase contemporary art here in the valley is a rare treat. With this exhibition, and future exhibitions, we hope to challenge its audience, young and old, to pursue all creative and educational interests."*

This exhibition is a project of the County Arts in Public Places (CAPP) Committee of the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission with generous funding support provided by the following: Esther Bates, Charles L. Bloom Foundation, Teen Conlon, Joan Cyr, Joan Davidson, Phyllis De Picciotto, Jacqueline Dyson, 7 Day Nursery, Mary Heebner, Joanne Holderman, Betty and Bob Klausner, Elaine LeVasseur, Jon and Lillian Lovelace, The Palm Loft Gallery, Frances Puccinelli, Scott Rowland, Rick and Ro Sanders, William Prindle, C. Dana White and Jana Zimmer.

