

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release:**

*Contact:* Rita Ferri, County Arts Commission at 805-568-3994, <ferri@co.santa-barbara.ca.us>

*Performance:* **Slam! Santa Barbara Limericks**

**Participants:** Coordinated by David Starkey, Santa Barbara Poet Laureate with Santa Barbara Poets

*Event Time:* 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, September 3, 2009, 6pm, Free to the Public, limited seating

*Location:* Channing Peake Gallery, 1<sup>st</sup> floor County Administration Building, Planning Hearing Room, 105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA

IMAGE: David Starkey, Poet Laureate, Photo credit: Lara Cooper

### ***Slam! Santa Barbara Limericks: An Evening of Performance Poems***

The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission in collaboration with the current exhibition, *The Magical and Curious Realms of Ralph Auf der Heide, 1915-2008*, at the Channing Peake Gallery in County Administration Building, Planning Hearing Room, 105 E. Anapamu Street, presents **Slam! Santa Barbara Limericks**, on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday reception will begin at 5pm, admission is free; however, seating is limited.

Coordinated by David Starkey, the Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara, this free-wheeling limerick slam will feature some of Santa Barbara's most adventurous poets: Mary Rose Betten, Chella Courington, Fran Davis, Michelle Detorie, Suzanne Frost, Perie Longo, Sojourner K. Rolle, Barry Spacks, and David Starkey. According to Starkey, "The limerick turns out to be a surprisingly daunting form. Because of its long associations with low comedy and off-color jokes, many poets are hesitant to write limericks. However, the work of Lisl Auf der Heide and the marvelous paintings of her late husband, Ralph, have been an inspiration to those of us writing limericks for this reading. If nothing else, Rita Ferri's, idea for a 'limerick slam' will be a first for each of the fine Santa Barbara poets participating in the event."

As curator of the Auf der Heide exhibition in the Peake Gallery, Ferri has chosen many of his reverse-paintings-on-glass and paired them with Lisl's specifically written limericks. In her brochure essay, Ferri said, "As an accomplished poet and writer, Lisl countered with refreshingly smart limericks that expanded the impact of his paintings. Her limericks employ the same attitude and carry the same punch and small truths the paintings do."

David Starkey is the poet laureate of Santa Barbara and director of the creative writing program at Santa Barbara City College. His sixth full-length book of poems, *A Few Things You Should Know about the Weasel*, will be published in the spring of 2010 by the Canadian press Biblioasis.

