

NEWS RELEASE

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**New Works in Summer Shows at the San Jose ICA**

*Hanna Hannah: Frames of War and 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lift Off Exhibition*



**SAN JOSE, CA – May 2011** – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is presenting two shows in its three galleries that showcase new works from both emerging and mid-career Bay Area artists. *Frames of War* a solo exhibition by mid-career Bay Area artist Hanna Hannah opens in the Focus Gallery and Cardinale Project Room on Saturday, June 18, 2011 and runs through September 10, 2011. *Lift Off*, a group show of works by MFA graduates opens in the Main Gallery on Saturday, July 2, 2011 and runs through September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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**Hanna Hannah: Frames of War (June 18 – September 10, 2011)**

**Reception for the Artist: Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 8PM**

*Frames of War* is an exhibition of new paintings by Santa Cruz-based artist Hanna Hannah that exposes a stark confrontation of terror and beauty. Hannah's works are created using fine brushes and casein paint and mixed media on paper and include fifteen floor-length panels resembling wallpaper as well as a series of formally framed works. Through these works, Hannah continues her exploration of embedding images of war and destruction into highly decorative motifs by creating a startling mash-up of floral patterns and idyllic landscapes with meticulously rendered scenes of war and aftermath sourced from the media. The result is a jarring experience as the viewer is seduced by the beauty of the steady, meditative ornamental patterns and then boldly confronted by scenes of human suffering and despair cradled in the center of each painted panel. In describing the ongoing narrative in her work Hannah explains that, "The scenes of aftermath, destruction and suffering [of war] that have made their way into the heart of my work are ones that come to us all through the ever-sharper technological acuties of the mass media. These images proliferate to such an extent that, like the air we breathe, they are never not there for me." The works on view in *Frames of War* were created over a three year-period beginning in 2008.



For more than 30 years, the ICA has been committed to exhibiting the art of exceptional but under-recognized, mid-career artists in an effort to generate meaningful exposure for their work. "Hanna Hannah is an appropriately deserving candidate for this opportunity," explains Cathy Kimball, the ICA's Executive Director. "We are very excited to introduce this exceptional new body of work to Hannah's fans and new audiences alike," says Kimball.

Hannah lectures and teaches painting and drawing in the Art Department at the University of California Santa Cruz. She has an M.A. in French studies from Tufts University, and an M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute. Hannah was born in El Salvador where her parents lived after emigrating from Germany. She moved to the U.S. in 1957. Hannah has exhibited her work since the late 1970s with solo exhibits at the Schmidt/Dean Gallery in Philadelphia; Braunstein Quay Gallery, San Francisco; and Miami University Art Museum, Ohio. Hannah's group shows include *History's Mirror* at the Palo Alto Art Center; *Collapsing Histories* at Gallery éf, Tokyo; *For the Birds* at Geoffrey Young Gallery in Great Barrington, Massachusetts; *Articles of Faith* at the Philadelphia Art Alliance; and *Works on Paper* at the Las Vegas Art Museum. Hannah's work can be found in collections at the Miami University Art Museum, Oxford, OH; Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz; and the Palace of the Legion of Honor (Achenbach Foundation), San Francisco.

***Lift Off* (July 2 – Sept 10, 2011)**

**Opening Reception, September 2011, date tbd**

Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year at the ICA, *Lift Off* presents the freshest artwork to emerge from San Jose State University (SJSU). The show features the collective works of SJSU's Master of Fine Art (MFA) 2011 graduates. This exhibition marks the culmination of two to three years of intensive investigation by students in the Fine Arts program at SJSU and launches the graduates into the next chapter of their artistic pursuits.

This year's exhibiting artists include: James Allison, Roderick Ayers, Eric Baral, Nicole Ballere-Callnan, Ryan Carrington, Steve Davis, John Eames, Jessica Eastburn, Ron Garavaglia, Alex Gibson, Dana Harris, Evan Hobart, Melody Kennedy, Presely Martin, Timothy McIntosh, Windy Rhoads, Nancy Sevier, and Nick Tranmer. The exhibition features sculpture, photography, painting, mixed media and new media.

*"Lift Off* is an extension of the ICA's commitment to provide meaningful opportunities for emerging artists to present their work to the public," says ICA Curator, Susan O'Malley. "We are always excited to present the work of new artists and collaborate with a diverse group of art makers and thinkers who reflect the cultural vibrancy of our community," adds O'Malley. In conjunction with the exhibition, the MFA graduates will publish a catalogue of their work with essays by Art History Master Degree candidates Sara Dragovitch, Laura Duncan-Hubby, Maayan Glaser-Koren, Whitney Moon, and Heather Peterson.

### **Images:**

Hanna Hannah, detail, *Untitled (South African Shantytown)*, 2010-2011, 72 inches x 36 inches, casein on paper, Image courtesy of the artist, Photography: Ron Jones

Hanna Hannah, Left: *Untitled (Lebanon)*, 2008-2009, 72 inches x 36 inches, casein on paper. Right: *Untitled (Iraqi and American Soldiers in Ramadi, Iraq)*, 2009-2010, 72 inches x 36 inches, casein on paper, Image courtesy of the artist

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The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art gratefully acknowledges support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the James Irvine Foundation, Adobe Systems Incorporated, the SanDisk Corporate fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and members of the ICA. The ICA is supported in part by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose and by a grant from Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council.

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is an energetic art space located in downtown San Jose dedicated to making contemporary art accessible and exciting to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Exhibitions are presented in three galleries that display the most current, relevant and often challenging art from the region, the nation and the world. The ICA is activated by opening receptions, monthly gallery walks, after-dark programming in the front windows, panel discussions, printmaking workshops, brown bag lunches and impromptu conversations in the galleries. Admission is always free.

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