

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art  
**News Release**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**San Jose ICA Presents *NextNew* Exhibition  
Summer Show Features Best of the New with a Twist of Green**



**May 28, 2009, SAN JOSE, CA** – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is presenting the work of nine Bay Area artists in its *NextNew* exhibition that features work from emerging talent on the region’s contemporary art scene. This year’s show subtitled *Green*, surveys fresh perspectives on climate change and related environmental and conservation issues.

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Artists represented in the exhibition include Michelle Blade, Colette Campbell-Jones, Misako Inaoka, Vanessa Marsh, Carson Murdach, Sandra Ono, Ryan Pierce, Rebecca Rothfus, and Michael Ryan. *NextNew: Green* opens on July 7<sup>th</sup> and runs through September 20<sup>th</sup> in the ICA's Main Gallery. An opening reception is being held on August 7<sup>th</sup>.



This year's *NextNew* artists are recent graduates of regional MFA programs who reflect on "green" as source material for their ideas and work. "One of the distinguishing characteristics of this year's show is how the artists have succeeded in marrying their conceptual goals with their chosen materials," explains Cathy Kimball, ICA Executive Director.

On view is work in a range of mediums, including miniature sculptures of invented creatures by Misako Inaoka, and Michael Ryan's life-size floating, breathing specters on life-support. Painters Michelle Blade's, Carson Murdach's and Ryan Pierce's richly-rendered paintings depict apocalyptic dreamscapes, post-industrial landscapes, and historically-referenced seascapes devoured by urban sprawl. Digital photographic collages by Colette Campbell-Jones and mixed media pieces by Vanessa Marsh shine a spotlight on the intentional and unintentional footprints left by visitors in once remote and uninhabited natural settings.

"The big, unwieldy topic of 'green' encompasses everything from re-using lunch bags to halting global warming," muses ICA Assistant Curator, Susan O'Malley. "To successfully tackle this theme we selected artists who are remarkable in part by how they personalize the topic and keenly engage the viewer by presenting curious combinations of beauty and destruction, natural and man-made materials, and



classic and contemporary subject matter.”

Also on view at the ICA this summer is the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual *Monotype Marathon* Print Exhibition which runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup>. This popular exhibition features monotype prints created by over seventy-five Bay Area printmakers. The prints are auctioned at a fundraising party on July 18<sup>th</sup> at the ICA. Multi-media installation artist Christel Dillbohner’s *Ice Floe*, on view from August 8<sup>th</sup> through September 20<sup>th</sup> is a site-specific sculptural installation comprised of thousands of suspended cone-shaped objects dipped in pigmented wax, hovering just above the floor to reference the majestic Arctic landscape. From June 30<sup>th</sup> through September 20<sup>th</sup>, *Night Moves*, after-dark programming in the ICA’s front windows presents Gail Wight’s *National Agenda* – a video art piece that is part eco-political activism and part Theater of the Absurd.

Image Captions: Sandra Ono, *Untitled*, 2009, acrylic nails and glue, 6 x 15 x 7 inches, Courtesy of the Artist  
Michelle Blade, *Untitled (We Found God on a Cruise Ship)*, 2007, Ink and acrylic on dura-lar, 24 inches x 30 inches, Courtesy of the Artist  
Vanessa Marsh, *Incomplete Freeway On-Ramp, Seattle, WA*, 2009, Mixed Media, 30 inches x 27 inches x 23 inches, Courtesy of the Artist

Christel Dillbohner: *Ice Floe* is funded by Applied Materials Excellence in the Arts Grants, a program of Arts Council Silicon Valley.

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, South First Friday 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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