

## Berkus Exhibition at the Channing Peake Gallery

### **Exhibition: *FAST FORWARD 2009: Selections from The Berkus Family Collection***

Dates: February 2 – June 19, 2009

Hours: Mon. – Friday, 8am – 6pm, Free to the Public

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

*Opening Reception: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, February 5, 5 – 8pm*

Free Gallery talks:

*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, March 5, 5:30pm, Heather Jenó Silva, curator, walk-thru gallery talk*

**IMAGE:** *All Is Well #7*, Dimitri Kozyrev, Oil and Acrylic on Canvas, 2004/05

*For additional images and information:* Rita Ferri, County Arts Commission at 805-568-3994 or <ferri@co.santa-barbara.ca.us>

The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission presents ***FAST FORWARD 2009: Selections from The Berkus Family Collection***, curated by Heather Jenó Silva, which revisits a selection of contemporary artists in the County's *Barry Berkus and Family Collection*, in honor of Gail Berkus. The exhibition features current works juxtaposed with earlier works from the collection to reveal surprising insights about the process of artistic evolution.

Silva, whose professional experience includes arts writer, arts columnist, and Public Programs Curator for the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, said, "The Berkus Collection is an extraordinary representation of Santa Barbara's rich visual arts legacy," says Silva. "Since many of the artists featured have not shown locally in recent history, it was my intent to evoke a sense of rediscovery and renewed enthusiasm about Santa Barbara's local arts treasures."

Among artists highlighted in this exhibition Lawrence Argent, Sky Bergman, Ginny Brush, Jeff Brouws, Dan Connally, Sam Erenberg, Rollin Fortier, Timothy Hearsom, Ken Hendrickson, Dimitri Kozyrev, and Harry Reese. The types of media used by these artists mirror the diversity of the collection itself: sculpture, painting, drawing, mixed media printmaking, collage, photography, ceramics, and digital media.

The ***Barry Berkus and Family Art Collection in memory of Gail Berkus***, first debuted on March 24, 2006, at the Channing Peake Gallery in the County Administration Building. Barry Berkus, noted Santa Barbara architect, art collector, and philanthropist, donated a large number of artworks from his collection to the County of Santa Barbara, through the County Arts Commission. All of the works given are by artists who live, or lived for an extended period, in

the Santa Barbara area. This gift represents over 70 art works and span 25 years of collecting work by area artists.

Mr. Berkus and his late wife, Gail, were recognized by Art News magazine as among the top 200 art collectors in the world. Their modern and contemporary collection was noted for its diversity and for large scale artworks by such well known artists as Alexander Calder, Andy Warhol, James Rosenquist, Frank Stella, Nancy Graves, Roy Lichtenstein, Richard Diebenkorn and Ed Ruscha.

While recognized for their collection of internationally and nationally known artists' artworks, the Berkus' were also keenly interested in and supportive of Santa Barbara area artists. They bought work from the artists' studios, galleries, and auctions and Berkus remains committed to art of the region.

***FAST FORWARD 2009: Selections from The Berkus Family Collection***, will be on view at the Channing Peake Gallery, February 2 – June 19, 2009. The original Berkus catalog with essay by Josef Woodard, and designed by Lily Guild, is available for purchase from the County Arts Commission; call 568-3990 to order. A gallery talk will take place at the Channing Peake Gallery on: <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> *Thursday*, March 5, 5:30pm, Heather Jenó Silva, curator, will conduct a walk-thru gallery talk on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Santa Barbara County Administration Building, 105 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Gallery Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm.

*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 J. Bates, Susan Bower, Charles L. Bloom Foundation, Teen Conlon, Joan Cyr, Joan Davidson, 7 Day Nursery, Phyllis De. Picciotto, Jacqueline Dyson, Mary Heebner, Joanne Holderman, Betty and Bob Klausner, Elaine LeVasseur, The Mammel Foundation, Palm Loft Gallery, Will Prindle, Frances Puccinelli, Rick and Ro Sanders, C. Dana White, Jana Zimmer*

