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For Immediate Release.

Exhibition: *Magic Mountain*: Zachary Cahill, Alyse Emdur, Chris Johanson, Boris Mikhailov, Yunhee Min, Shana Moulton, John Newling, Johan Rosenmunthe, Truong Cong Tung, and Hannah Vainstein

Opening reception: Saturday, March 7, 2015, 6 – 8 pm

MCASB Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara, 121 State Street

On view: March 8, 2015 - January 31, 2016

ADMISSION IS FREE

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara presents *Magic Mountain*, a group exhibition exploring the healing and therapeutic properties of the natural world.



Left to right: Zachary Cahill, *USSADREAM*, 2014, 9 x 12 in., Watercolor on paper, Courtesy the Artist; Hannah Vainstein, Urn, 2013, Watercolor on paper, 20 x 14 $\frac{1}{8}$ in., Courtesy the Artist

For centuries, travelers to remote mountain villages, seaside escapes, and desert oases have turned to our environment in search of medicinal attributes. Whether it's to find the elixir of life, to practice the restorative act of sun-gazing, to harvest mud for skin renewal, or to receive the magnetic power of rocks, the belief in nature's curative virtues often transcends scientific explanation to include mystical aspects. This exhibition, organized by MCASB Associate Curator Brooke Kellaway, is inspired by these quests and obsessions, and the truths, mysteries, antidotes, and rabbit holes that arise in these journeys toward healing. Artworks in this exhibition address the mythologies and marketplace of natural cures—spiritual, physical, and psychological—at a time when humankind's relationship to the environment is rapidly changing.

Magic Mountain, titled after the classic 1924 novel by Thomas Mann, pays homage to Santa Barbara's own contributions to this phenomenon. Santa Barbara's history as a spa town began with the

discovery of the Montecito hot springs in 1857 by Wilbur Curtiss, a traveler in broken health who was led to the springs by a Chumash he met during a hike. By soaking in these waters over time, Curtiss was convinced that they cured his ailment. He built bathhouses, attracting travelers and ultimately putting Santa Barbara on the map as a premier destination for health and wellness. From these local hot springs in Montecito, the exhibition takes us to mineral springs in Sarasota, Florida, a salt lake in south Ukraine, and a magical garden in the Long An province of Vietnam. It presents works by artists who investigate the alchemical power of stones and minerals and the use of Moringa Oleifera plants for malnutrition. Throughout the interior and outdoor space of Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara is a rich array of video, drawings, painting, and photography.

"The Museum's unique partnership with Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara continues to serve our mission of making contemporary art more accessible to the public," says MCASB Executive Director Miki Garcia. "Hotel guests and passersby can freely explore the space, and they are able to approach the work, often from internationally recognized artists, without any preconceived notions."

Participating artists include: Zachary Cahill, Alyse Emdur, Chris Johanson, Boris Mikhailov, Yunhee Min, Shana Moulton, John Newling, Johan Rosenmunthe, Truong Cong Tung, and Hannah Vainstein.

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) exhibition and education programs are generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts; Nordstrom; Towbes Foundation; Dedalus Foundation; Ann Jackson Family Foundation; Community Events & Festivals Grant Program using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission; Mosher Foundation in honor of Barry Berkus, recommended by Dr. Bruce McFadden; Montecito Bank & Trust; High Tide Foundation; and contributions from our Board of Trustees and many generous individuals. MCASB Curator's Council is gratefully acknowledged for their support. Additional significant support is provided by James Irvine Foundation; Getty Foundation; Williams-Corbett Foundation, Hutton Parker Foundation/Cox Communications Marketing Grant.

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About the Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara

Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara combines historic Santa Barbara splendor with the architectural sophistication of modern design. Located in downtown Santa Barbara, at the gateway to the city and steps from the cutting-edge Funk Zone, the hotel offers an artistic contribution to the vibrant art community in the form of the MCASB Satellite exhibition space.

About Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara:

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is a non-profit, non-collecting museum dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the arts of our time. Formerly Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF), MCASB is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. MCASB is located at the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. With the opening of the MCASB Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara in February of 2012, Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara becomes one museum with two locations. Located in the Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at 121 State Street, the MCASB Satellite space features yearlong exhibitions of stimulating contemporary artworks.

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