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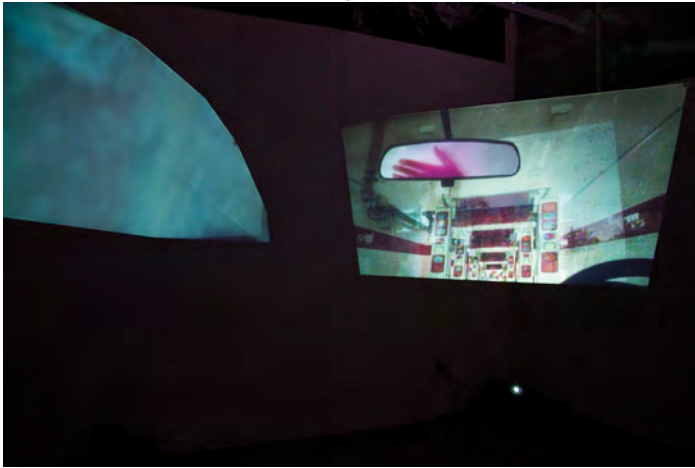
Exhibitions: *THINGS THAT TURN YOUR BRAINS TO MUSH* and **Bloom Projects:** Glen Fogel, *Recent Video*

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 13, 6–8 pm, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum

Exhibitions on view: April 14 - June 16, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum

ADMISSION IS FREE

CAF presents an exhibition of Santa Barbara-based artists, guest curated by Warren Schultheis, along with the latest iteration of **Bloom Projects** featuring New York artist Glen Fogel.



Left to right: Katy McCarthy, *Deluxe*, 2011, Video installation (projection on frosted Plexiglas), Dimensions variable, Courtesy of the Artist. Petra Cortright, *Enchanted Forest* *strippersnopoleeasy2girls[1]*, 2012, (screenshot of .swf file, Dimensions variable, Courtesy of the Artist.

"...people have always had a tremendous fear about the impact of new technology on language. When the printing press was first invented, people thought it was an instrument of the devil that would spawn unauthorized versions of the Bible." - David Crystal, author of *Language and the Internet*

Culture and language evolve faster than individuals can adapt. From inception, cartoons and television were purported to "turn kids' brains to mush". This conventional wisdom spawned years of cultural criticism revolving around the supposed "negative effects" of television, cartoons, and later, the Internet. In his book *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, Marshall McLuhan famously wrote, "Each innovation is not only commercially disrupting, but socially and psychologically corroding as well." Today, there is fear of the corruption of "traditional" English by the widespread adoption of communication tools like Twitter and texting, which make regular use of abbreviations and shorthand. The artists in this exhibition include: David Cooley, Petra Cortright, Yoon Chung Han, Katy McCarthy, Chris Silva, Tellef Tellefson, and Jonny Troyna. Collectively, their work for this exhibition addresses society's reluctance to embrace new media and language.

The artists will explore this phenomenon through the lens of a complex and rapidly growing medium: the animated GIF (graphics interchange format). An animated GIF is a multi-frame (moving) image that can be viewed in any web-browser. Used to add motion to simple icons in early web-design, the GIF has metastasized into something more culturally complex. Today, a GIF may be a savvy response in a comment thread, a stand-alone visual joke, or a simple act of teenage vanity. GIFs have become mesmerizing cultural artifacts, and like all new media, they are controversial to the status quo. By showcasing work that uses the GIF as a point of reference—whether it be projected, painted, sculpted, or pixelated—the seven artists in this exhibition challenge audience to think critically about the "fear of the new" in a broader cultural and historical context.

An artist, designer, and curator, Santa Barbara-based Warren Schultheis organized the last two *Super Santa Barbara* exhibitions using local artists and contemporary topics such as network neutrality (the principle that all Internet traffic should be treated equally). As curator, Schultheis invites artists, to address issues through their work, thus facilitating dialogue citywide. For *THINGS THAT TURN YOUR BRAINS TO MUSH*, Schultheis explores themes of dehumanization, love, hate, singularity, and super-humanizing.

Special thanks to: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York, NY; *Casa Magazine*, Santa Barbara, CA; The James Irvine Foundation, San Francisco, CA; *Montecito Journal*, CA; Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center, Santa Barbara, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*, CA; *Santa Barbara News-Press*, CA; *Santa Barbara Sentinel*, CA; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.



Glen Fogel, *Goldye*, 2011, Cadillac Seville (1991), mp3 player, mosfet transistor, arduino circuit board, framed certificate of sale, Dimensions variable, Installation view at Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, NY, Courtesy the Artist and Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, NY

Bloom Projects: Glen Fogel, *Recent Video*

CAF invites New York-based artist Glen Fogel for the next installment of **Bloom Projects**. Inspired by a recent visit to Santa Barbara, Fogel explores the disappearance of video stores and the multiple definitions of the term "video", for example, movies, technology, and pornography, as well as the ephemeral form of a video. Fogel's interest in the displacement of space and location of a given object or image will allow the viewer to contrast the object's natural home and the temporary home.

Born in Denver, Fogel currently lives and works in Brooklyn. Fogel studied film/cultural studies at McGill University, Montreal and received his MFA from The Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard College, Red Hook, NY. He has exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; The Toronto International Film Festival, Canada; and The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.

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About Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum: Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF) is a non-profit, non-collecting alternative art space dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the arts of our time. Celebrating its 37th anniversary in 2013, CAF is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. CAF is located at the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. New in 2012: visit our second location, CAF Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at 121 State Street. For more information call CAF at (805) 966-5373, or Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at (805) 966-6586.

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