

## **MCASB Focuses on the Importance of Art in Education**

Santa Barbara, CA, November 5, 2014: The Museum of Contemporary Art is postponing its annual home raffle for one year to focus on its mission of infusing arts into the Central Coast. Especially integral to this mission is the importance of arts education. MCASB offers free, educational programs that engage youth and families in art, and is concentrating on promoting the value of arts enrichment in the Santa Barbara community this year. The raffle will be back, of course, as it is the longest running of its kind in Santa Barbara, and a fundraising staple of the museum.

MCASB believes that the not only learning about, but also experiencing, the arts by active participation with artists benefits student achievement. The National Endowment for the Arts supports this with recent findings showing youth have better grades, greater self esteem, higher rates of college enrollment and higher career aspirations as a result of arts education.

Miki Garcia, Executive Director and Chief Curator for MCASB states, “Our goal is to expand and deepen the ways in which people experience the Museum through a slate of offerings that emphasize empowerment, innovative thinking, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts. Our immediate hope is that viewers would have interest in visiting the exhibitions and events we are offering in the 2014-15 cycle, but a long-term goal is to promote the Museum as a champion for the art of today--the art that affects us and reflects our society--and encourage viewers to visit us in the future for educational programs and unique offerings that cater to our community.”

To support their efforts, MCASB's arts education gives youth the opportunity to stretch their minds, bodies, and imaginations in a setting that is less structured, programmatically more flexible, and conducive to informal mentoring relationships. Programs include the Teen Insider's Project, an eight-month curriculum-based arts program for high school students; Visiting Artist Series, in which exhibiting artists meet

with students for museum tours, classroom lessons, and art making; and the Art Lab, an on-site workshop/library which offers art making opportunities that encourage audiences to "learn by doing," with resources that deepen the experience of the art on view.

For more information about MCA and its education programs, visit [mcasantabarbara.org](http://mcasantabarbara.org).

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