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**For Immediate Release.**

**MCASB Opens Groundbreaking Exhibition on Stearns Wharf with Community Celebration and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**



*SPORTS, Runaway on Stearns Wharf, 2017*

On Sunday, March 26, Stearns Wharf will be a hive of activity. Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB), in partnership with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center, will launch a new public art initiative *takepart | makeart: arte para todos* with a ribbon cutting ceremony and community celebration starting at 1 pm.



In the days leading up to the launch, community members will notice a temporary new addition to the end of the pier by the Sea Center - a public art installation titled *Runaway*. The centerpiece of *takepart | makeart: arte para todos*,

*Runaway* is a vibrantly-colored contemporary art pavilion designed by award-winning architecture duo, Molly Hunker and Greg Corso of SPORTS. Both Hunker and Corso will be in attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony to give remarks, along with Mayor Helene Schneider and MCASB Executive Director Miki Garcia. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the festivities will continue with a community celebration featuring interactive art projects with internationally-acclaimed artist Cruz Ortiz, food, and giveaways for attendees.

"I am most excited about the opportunity to reach new and diverse audiences through this public art initiative. Our Museum aims to remove all barriers to art, making it possible for all in our community to experience the power of art and creative expression. *takepart | makeart: arte para todos* accomplished our mission to bring the most compelling art and design of our time to the audiences we serve," says and MCASB Executive Director Miki Garcia.

For those interested in hearing more about *Runaway*, MCASB is hosting a special panel discussion focused on contemporary design titled *In Conversation: Contemporary Design and Architecture in Santa Barbara*. Hunker and Corso will be joined by local architect Michael Porter and architecture critic Mimi Zeiger for the event, which will take place on Saturday, March 25 at 2 pm in the Atkinson Gallery at Santa Barbara City College.

The first exhibition of its kind, *takepart | makeart: arte para todos* centers around a vibrant, modular pavilion that will travel to the Waterfront, Westside, and Isla Vista neighborhoods between March and August 2017. At each location, MCASB will partner with local organizations to offer interactive arts programs led by prominent social practice artists Cruz Ortiz, Tanya Aguiñiga, and April Bojorquez and Matt Garcia of desertArtLAB. Born out of a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, all programs will be bilingual, free, and open to all.

Amanda Allen, Director the Sea Center is excited about the partnership and states, "We are proud to have *Runaway* as our temporary neighbor and I am thrilled to have the opportunity for this engaging piece of art to be a conversation starter with guests at the Sea Center. One special feature about its location on Stearns Wharf, next to the Sea Center, is the ability to see it from so many different perspectives and distances. I encourage everyone to come down and see it in person!"

*takepart | makeart* has received significant funding from The James Irvine Foundation Exploring Engagement Fund. Additional funding has been provided by California Arts Council, The Towbes Foundations, Santa Barbara, Foundation, Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture, and Susan E. Bower Engagement Fund.

A big thank you to the City of Santa Barbara, City of Santa Barbara Parks & Recreation Department, City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department for making this installation possible.

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### **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 art 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, MCASB 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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### **About the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center**

Founded in 1916, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History reconnects more than 100,000 people each year (including their 6,200 members) to nature indoors and outdoors. Uniquely nestled in nature, the Museum has ten indoor exhibit halls focusing on regional natural history including astronomy, birds, insects, geology, mammals, marine life, paleontology, plant life, and the Chumash Indians.

The Museum's outdoor nature experience continues down to the Pacific Ocean at its Sea Center located on the historic Stearns Wharf. The Sea Center offers over 100,000 visitors a window to ocean life in the Santa Barbara Channel through its interactive exhibits and close-up, hands-on encounters with sea creatures. The Museum's outdoor exhibit experiences include a nature trail, the Chumash Sukinani'oy Garden, The Museum Backyard & Nature Club House, the Butterfly Pavilion, and a real 74-foot Blue Whale skeleton. Beyond exhibitions, the Museum offers science education programs for adults and children, preserves a collection of more than three million specimens and artifacts, and maintains ongoing scientific research. The Museum's mission is to inspire a thirst for discovery and a passion for the natural world. Please visit [www.sbnature.org](http://www.sbnature.org) for more information.

Location: 211 Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Hours: 10:00 AM-5:00 PM