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**Nights at SBMA Kicks Off the Event Season
Early with a Special April 16 event Highlighting the
current exhibition *Yinka Shonibare, MBE: A Flying
Machine for Every Man, Woman and Child and Other
Astonishing Works***

**New this year! Join us for our new event series *Nights
Atelier*, where art and performance get personal**



Nights events: Thursdays, April 16, June 25, and August 20, 5:30 - 8pm

Nights Atelier events: Saturdays, June 27 and August 22, 6 - 8 pm

March 10, 2009 – Santa Barbara, CA – Now in its sixth year, **Nights** returns to the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) with an early start to the season on April 16 from 5:30 to 8 pm. **Nights** continues to inspire through time-based art, performance, and new media. These unique events offer a cultural cocktail of art, music, specialty martinis, and outrageous one-night-only interactive happenings in the Museum's galleries. View world-class art collections, socialize, and enjoy the creative play that redefines what it means to engage with art. Each event features original participatory installations and artist-designed experiences inspired by the current exhibitions.

New this year, SBMA introduces **Nights Atelier**, where art and performance get personal, on Saturday, June 27 and Saturday, August 22 from 6 to 8 pm. Step inside the galleries for a fresh experience - Nights' version of an artist's atelier - a studio for the imagination where the lights are lower, conversations are more intimate, and the artists are your collaborators.

Nights Atelier offers guests an intimate art experience at SBMA where participants explore the creative process in an enriching evening of art, music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. This series has a limited capacity of 200 people per event to ensure the highest quality experience.

"We are excited to introduce Nights Atelier to our event series. We feel this new addition provides an innovative approach to a more in-depth experience of the Museum and many of the elements of our popular Nights events," comments SBMA Director, Larry Feinberg.

Nights was created in 2004 by Kristy Thomas (SBMA Associate Director of Community Programs & Events), and Patsy Hicks (SBMA Director of Education), to an overwhelming local response. People of all ages have gathered in the Museum galleries and experienced art and culture in a unique and entertaining way. This season promises to be even more engaging and stimulating than the last—with surprising twists on artistic themes that blend live music, performance, interactive installations, and outrageous art activities. **Nights** is a soulful playground for the mind and eye, and it redefines what it means to engage with art.

The Nights **mARTini Card** allows guests access to dedicated bar lines, and is available exclusively to Luxe Pass holders. Each mARTini Card is good for ten drinks over the course of the 2008 Nights season. At \$70 each, they represent a \$3 discount for the cost of individual drink tickets bought at the event.

Along with dedicated bar lines throughout the event, Luxe Pass holders enjoy a private entrance line to all 3 **Nights** events and access to VIP areas. Only a limited number of Luxe passes and mARTini cards are available, offered first to SBMA Members beginning on March 2, and then to the general public on March 16. New to this year Nights offers a Luxury Package including a Luxe pass and mARTini Card for \$200. Luxe Tickets are also available for SBMA members for individual events at \$50 each.

MORE TICKET INFO:

Luxe Passes will be on sale March 2 to SBMA Members, and March 16 to the general public. Prices are \$150 for SBMA Members.

Individual tickets for **Nights** are \$25 for SBMA Members, \$35 for non-Members. mARTini Cards are \$70 for ten drinks, Luxe Tickets are \$50 each and the Luxury Package is \$150 which includes a Luxe Pass and mARTini Card.

Nights Atelier tickets are \$50 for SBMA Members and \$60 for non-Members which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres. Nights Atelier tickets are available for purchase on March 16.

Purchase tickets online at www.sbma.net. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is located at 1130 State Street.

All funds raised by **Nights** support SBMA's education programs that serve over 40,000 people through 40 different programs every year.

NIGHTS EVENTS

Thursday, April 16, 5:30 - 8 pm

Uncover cultural myths explored in the exhibition *Yinka Shonibare, MBE: A Flying Machine for Every Man, Woman and Child and Other Astonishing Works*

The Royal Diaspora Fantasy Fete Galante, *Un Ballo* Masks, The Bronte Sisters Chokers, Afro-Pop/Nu-Jazz Remixes, The Parlour Play Portrait

Studio, *The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters* (and messages in bottles).

Thursday, June 25, 5:30 - 8 pm

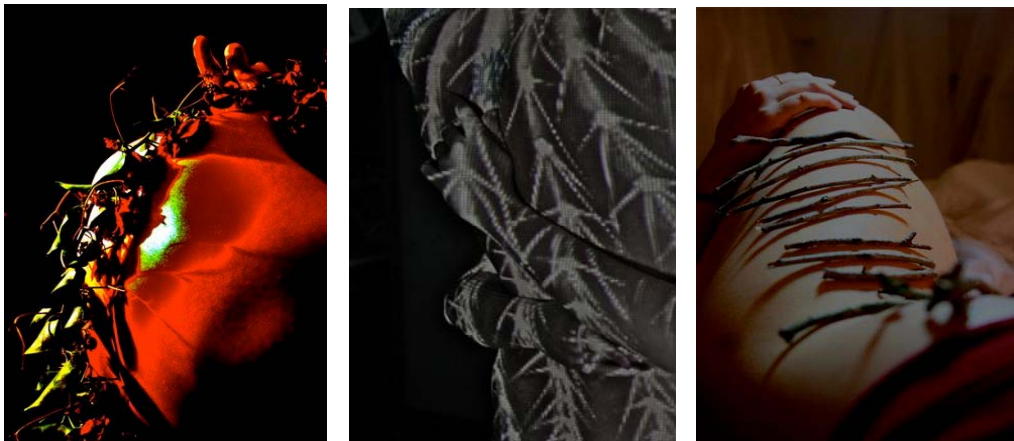
**Celebrate visual geometry, contrast and texture inspired by *Brett Weston*:
*Out of the Shadow***

A special performance by String Theory in SBMA's back plaza, *The Nude in Nature* Collective Submissions, *Landscaping the Body: Botanical Couture*, and *Negative Spaces: Shadow Boxes*.

Surrender to taste, touch, sight, smell and hearing by focusing on 5: Five Works from the Permanent Collection explored through the five senses

Jardin au Petit Pont Scent Opera, *The Mark: Digital Canvas Studio*, *Perseus by Night* Amulets, and *Candyland(scapes)*.

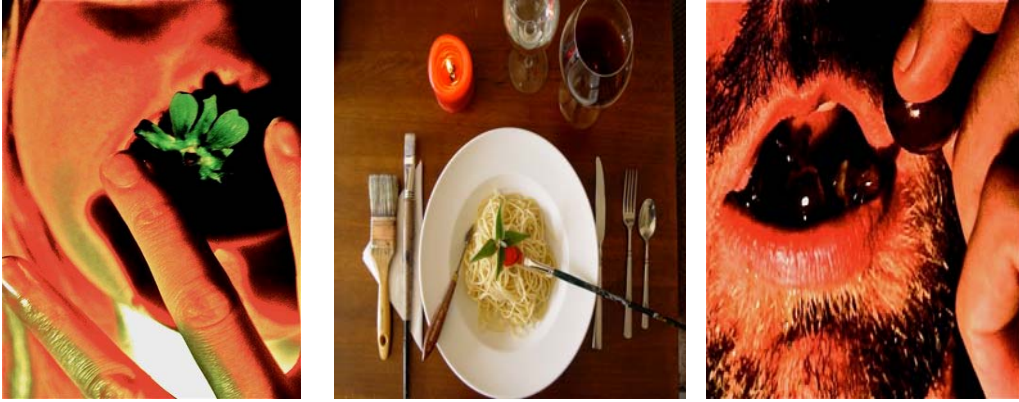
NIGHTS ATELIER EVENTS



Saturday, June 27, 6 – 8 pm

Focus on Form: Nature and the Nude

Celebrate the exuberance and abandon of the body as artists conjure, carve, stroke, slap, shape and feel their way to and from form with the site/sight specific sculpting from life studio, body as landscape over - sized photo-grams, and a provocative performance of music and dance.



Saturday, August 22, 6 – 8 pm

A Feast for the Eyes

Indulge in a spectacular food-as-art experience. Nights Atelier presents a Feast for the Eyes - five visual artists paired with five chefs to create a culinary cabaret in five courses. The artists' interpretation of each course plays with the notions of taste, subverts rituals of etiquette, and slices through the symbolic layers to arrive at unexpected eating experiences, post-prandial performance and music that is definitely off the menu.

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