



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarah Clark 805.966.2707 sarah@plugco.com

**Celebrate Visual Geometry, Contrast, and Texture inspired by
Brett Weston: Out of the Shadow at the
Second SBMA Nights of the Season on June 25!**



String Theory



KCRW DJ Jason Bentley

**Featuring provocative performances in SBMA's back plaza by
Los Angeles based String Theory and KCRW's Music Director,
Jason Bentley with special late hours from 5:30 to 9:30 pm**

Nights events: Thursdays, June 25 with special late night hours, 5:30 to 9:30 pm,
and August 20, 5:30 to 8 pm

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

May 26, 2009 – Santa Barbara, CA – **Nights** celebrates the photography of Brett Weston at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) for its second event of the season with two extraordinary performances by Los Angeles based String Theory and KCRW's Music Director, Jason Bentley in SBMA's back plaza on June 25. This **Nights** event boasts special extended hours to host these incredible acts back-to-back from 5:30 to 9:30 pm-making this the first four-hour experience! **Nights** continues to inspire through art-making, performance, and new media, where guests are served a cultural cocktail of art, music, specialty martinis, and outrageous one-night-only interactive happenings in the Museum's

galleries. With world-class art collections as a backdrop, **Nights** is an opportunity to both 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.

The June 25 **Nights** event is inspired by the current exhibition *Brett Weston: Out of the Shadow*. It will feature a special performance by KCRW's Music Director, Jason Bentley and String Theory in SBMA's back plaza, in addition to *The Nude in Nature Cell Phone Photo Collective Submissions*, *Landscaping the Body: Botanical Couture* (sponsored by Ever clothing), *Negative Spaces: Shadow Boxes*, *The Mark: Digital Canvas Studio* and *Shades of Grey: Mixed Media Mural*.

The featured exhibition represents the largest retrospective of Brett Weston's work in over 30 years and surveys his nearly 70-year career by showcasing more than 130 photographs that range from early vintage prints made in Mexico and California in the 1920s and 1930s; East Coast images from the 1940s; to later landscape and nature photographs as well as prints made shortly before his death in Hawaii in 1993.

One of the **Nights** event's highlights is the return of the groundbreaking music performance ensemble String Theory, performing from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in SBMA's back plaza. These "sonic engineers" who create large-scale musical instruments utilizing architectural components of the event space, have performed at the Grammys, the opening Festivities of Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Vanity Fair 25th Anniversary Party for MOCA Geffen. Their site specific concert for **Nights** features dancers and musicians playing golden harp wires, enveloping guests in a canopy of otherworldly sounds and atmospheric textures. String Theory accompanies their harps with the cello, violin, saxophone, flute, keys, bass, drums, and a myriad of exotic and invented percussion, and vocals. Their music ranges from 15th century renaissance to rock, electronica, and experimental soundscapes. More info on String Theory is available online at StringTheoryProductions.com.

In addition to their performances at the June Nights and Nights Atelier events, String Theory acts as the centerpiece for two interactive workshops with groups of children from SBMA's free Art in Motion Summer Program on Friday, June 26.

One of the unique features of the evening is the artful transition between String Theory and famed DJ Jason Bentley, KCRW's music director and host of the station's signature music show Morning Becomes Eclectic. Bentley spins in SBMA's back plaza from 8 to 9:30 pm, complimented by stunning visuals and performance by String Theory dancers. In addition, guests are treated to *The Mark: Digital Canvas Studio*, a spontaneous collaboration between artists responding to Brett Weston's intimate and graphic studies of the natural world, and Bentley's eclectic set. Ink, paint, paper and streaming imagery are layered

on the Museum's façade as the artists' marks are captured via camera and projected as visual music in a multi-media "landscape." The artists' sketches are provided to guests throughout the evening.

This is a rare opportunity for locals to experience a live performance by this world renowned DJ. Bentley is widely respected as a DJ as well as a music supervisor for film ("The Matrix" soundtracks) and video games, a music executive (co-founder of the Quango Music Group and an A&R executive at Madonna's Maverick imprint), and as a music producer and remixer.

The June 25 **Nights** event also provides an opportunity for the public to submit digital photos from cell phones of objects in the natural world that resemble human form for participation in *The Nude in Nature: Collective Submissions Cell Phone Cinema*. Selected photos will be projected in one of the Museum's main galleries, presenting a rare chance to peer into the lives of the photographer and experience what life looks like when our individual worlds meet. To submit an image send the digital photo to me@sbma.net. Submissions will be accepted until June 21, 2009.

Other art activities for this event include *Landscaping the Body: Botanical Couture*, where guests create a one-of-a-kind botanical headdress by fashioning sheets of paper into blossoms, branches, fronds, and feathers inspired by Katsuya Kamo's collection for Chanel™ This art activity is generously sponsored by Ever clothing, its flagship store located at 1145 Coast Village Road. Additional art activities include *Negative Spaces: Shadow Boxes*, *Pure Form Cuffs*, and *Shades of Grey: Mixed Media Mural*.

Specialty cocktails for the evening are the *Underwater Nude* and *Clouds & Rooftops-tini*. Featured hors d' oeuvres from Coast will be served throughout the event. Join us for the **Nights** after-party at Coast at the Canary Hotel for late dinner and cocktails until 11pm. Wine is provided by The Brander Vineyard and beer provided by Karl Strauss.



New this Season – Nights Atelier

New this year, SBMA introduces **Nights Atelier**, where art and performance get personal, on Saturday, June 27 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.

The first **Nights Atelier** event will feature a "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: assemblage lab, and a provocative interactive concert by String Theory. Hors d'oeuvres for the first **Nights Atelier** event will be generously sponsored by local catering company Duo Catering and Events, known for using organic food from local farmers.

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.

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

Nights was created by Kristy Thomas (SBMA Associate Director of Community Programs & Events), along with a team of SBMA Teaching Artists.

TICKET INFO:

Nights

Individual tickets for **Nights** are \$25 for SBMA Members, \$35 for non-Members.

The Nights **mARTini Card** gives 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 2009 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 positioned 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. Prices are \$150 for SBMA Members.

New this year, Nights is offering 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.

Nights Atelier

Tickets are \$50 for SBMA Members and \$60 for non-Members which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres.

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

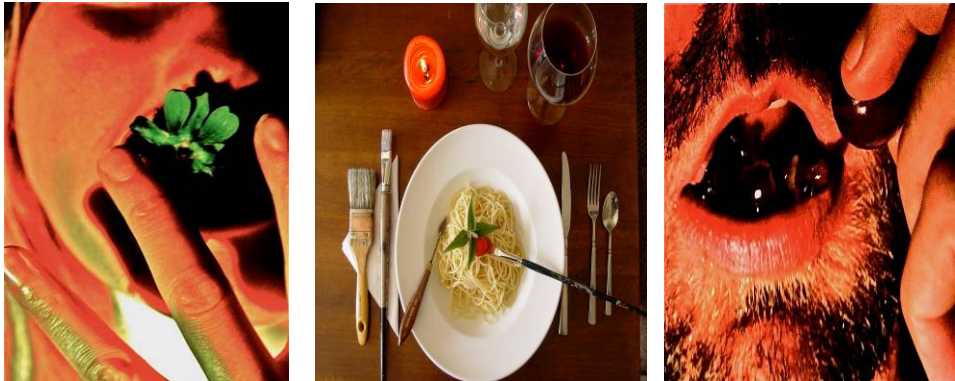
UPCOMING NIGHTS EVENT:

Thursday, August 20, 5:30 – 8 pm

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 Synesthesia Stylists: Body Talk, *Perseus by Night* Amulets, and *Candyland*(scapes).

UPCOMING NIGHTS ATELIER EVENT:



Saturday, August 22, 6 – 8 pm

A Feast for the Eyes

Indulge in a spectacular food-as-art experience with 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.

The SBMA thanks our 2009 sponsors for their generous support:



###