



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Explore the “I” word at the June 19th Nights!

Come face to face with twenty-five contemporary works from Asia, Europe and the Americas featured in *Identities*



Featuring a performance by String Theory, *The Myth of Fingerprints* Plymouth® Gin Gimlet, Pharmaceutical Astrology Boxes, The *Rojo Intenso* Clay Studio, and The Best of the 80s Plus a Few One Hit Wonders Piano & Body Art Bar

Thursday, June 19, 5:30 – 8 pm  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art

May 28, 2008 – Santa Barbara, CA – After a splashy May 15 debut, **Nights** at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) raises the bar with an event on June 19 from 5:30 to 8 pm, inspired by *Identities*, an exhibition of provocative works from SBMA's collection of contemporary art from Asian, Europe and the Americas.

**Nights** is a cultural cocktail of art, live music, specialty martinis, and outrageous one-night-only interactive happenings. The evening in June will feature hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Chef Michael Hutchings of Michael's Catering, wine provided by The Brander Vineyard, beer generously donated by Karl Strauss Brewery, and themed cocktails including the *Myth of Fingerprints* Plymouth® Gin Gimlet and The Absolut® Mandrin *Miss Exotic World-tini*

The *Identities* exhibition highlights approximately 25 works, ranging in date from 1981 to 2003. The artists featured in this presentation use the visual arts to express personal feelings and broader perceptions about racial, sexual, and cultural identity. Pertinent commentaries on culture and the self are contained in the objects, as well as the exhibition as a whole; it is these commentaries that inspire the June 19 **Nights** event elements.

Trademark outrageous art activities and interactive happenings encourage creative play and redefine what it means to engage with art; in June, guests will explore aspects of their own identity with Pharmaceutical Astrology Boxes, The *Rojo Intenso* Clay Studio, "A beautiful way of getting worn out" DJ Remixes, *Re-designing My Library* Necklaces, and The Best of the 80s Plus a Few One Hit Wonders Piano & Body Art Bar.

The event's highlight will be the return of the groundbreaking music performance ensemble **String Theory Productions**. These "sonic engineers" who create large-scale musical instruments utilizing architectural components of the performance space, will be the centerpiece of an audio/visual concept gallery. String Theory's giant wall harp will act as a catalyst to a light and laser show visually blending the images in *Identities* with those of galactic events. Dancers and musicians will play the golden harp wires enveloping guests in a canopy of otherworldly sounds and beautiful sonic textures. String Theory accompanies their harps with, cello, violin, guitar, saxophone, flute, keys, bass, drums, sampler, a myriad of exotic and invented percussion, and vocals. Their music ranges from 15<sup>th</sup> century renaissance to rock, electronica, and experimental soundscapes. This sonic and visual journey flows perfectly with the creative landscape that makes up **Nights**.

Drawing from a wide variety of global and historical influences, from the International avant-garde to fifteenth-century Spanish Renaissance, String Theory's performances are both technically and artistically complex. This is String Theory's second performance at **Nights**; their last appearance, in June of last year, received rave reviews.

New this year, Luxe Tickets are available for individual **Nights** events. Luxe Tickets confer single-event Luxe Pass benefits, which include access to dedicated bar lines throughout the event, a private entrance line, and a VIP lounge featuring hors d'oeuvres, an exclusive bar and wine tasting, and a special Luxe art activity. Only a limited number Luxe Tickets are available.

The **Nights** mARTini Card allows guests access to dedicated bar lines, and is available exclusively to Luxe Pass and Ticket holders. Each mARTini Card is good for ten drinks over the course of the 2008 **Nights** season, and represents a 30% discount compared to the cost of individual drink tickets purchased at the event.

Pre-sale **Nights** tickets, Luxe Tickets, and mARTini Cards are on sale now. Luxe Ticket prices are \$60 for SBMA Members and \$120 for Non-Members, and include a one-year SBMA General membership. Individual tickets for **Nights** events are \$20 for SBMA Members, \$35 for Non-Members. mARTini Cards are \$70 each.

Purchase advance tickets, Luxe Tickets, mARTini Cards, and SBMA memberships online at [www.sbma.net/nights](http://www.sbma.net/nights) or at the Museum Admissions Desks between 11 am and 4 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. For additional event information call 884-6414. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is located at 1130 State Street.

### **SBMA thanks our 2008 Nights sponsors for their support:**



### **Upcoming Nights Events**

**Thursday, July 17, 5.30 – 8 pm**

**Transcend illusion and desire by traveling through the exhibition *A Tibet Expedition 1938: Selected Gifts from Two Explorers.***

Prince Siddhartha/The Artist Formally Known as Prince Remixes, The Twenty-one Tara

Altar, Auspicious Symbol Amulets, The Obstacles to Enlightenment Cruzan® Black Cherry Mojito, and Wrathful Deity Masks.

**Thursday, August 21 5.30 – 8 pm**

**Surrender to a world of glamour, magic, and perfection inspired by *Made in Hollywood: Photographs from the John Kobal Foundation*.**

Deco-dence: A (Re)Movable Feast, The Star System Portrait Studio, and Idol Cine: Bombshells and Bad Boys Mash-Ups, The Maker's Mark® Rhett Butler, and Old Hollywood/New Faces: The Collective Casting Call.

**Thursday, September 18, 7 – 9:30 pm** *\*Please note special time*

**Celebrate the international *avant-garde* inspired by the Museum's collection of art from the 1930s – 60s.**

A special late Nights event in SBMA's back plaza, with KCRW-sponsored DJ Jason Bentley and *The Dharma Bums* Sauza® Margaritas.