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San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art

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San Jose ICA Presents *Lift Off* San Jose State University's MFA Graduate Exhibition

SAN JOSE, CA – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) presents *Lift Off*, the fourth annual exhibition featuring San Jose State University's (SJSU) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) graduates. On view in the Main Gallery from April 25 – June 14, 2008, the ICA will host a public reception on Friday, May 23, from 6 – 8 pm, coinciding with San Jose State University's commencement weekend.

Throughout its history, the ICA has been dedicated to providing meaningful opportunities for emerging artists and *Lift Off* is an extension of this commitment. The exhibition not only marks the culmination of two to three years of intense investigation in the Fine Art programs at San Jose State University but also launches the artists in the next chapter of their artistic pursuits. From sculpture to photography and painting to new media, the artwork challenges, inspires and reflects on the ideas and culture of our time.

This year's graduates include: Colleen Arakaki, Susan Burgers, Ben Eberle, Mark Fox-Morgan, Benjamin Hunt, Ethan Miller, Andy Muonio, Amanda Smith, Gabe Toci, Ashley Vander Meeden, Tammy Jo Wilson and Bryan Yerian. In conjunction with the exhibition, the graduates will produce a color catalogue that includes essays by Art History Master Degree candidates Ross Borgida, Fredrick Hubbs, Colette M. Simanello, Sally Sumida as well as SJSU faculty Dore Bowen and Stan Welsh.

For more info about *Lift Off*, including pictures, please visit: www.sjica.org or contact Susan O'Malley at susan@sjica.org.

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The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is dedicated to making contemporary art accessible and comprehensible to audiences of all ages and backgrounds through innovative and thought-provoking exhibitions that create a bridge between the artwork and the issues of everyday life. ICA hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Thursday, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm; Saturday, 12:00 – 5:00 pm; closed Sunday and Monday. Admission is free.

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art gratefully acknowledge support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the City of San Jose, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Arts Council Silicon Valley, the Adobe Foundation Fund, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and the members of the ICA.