

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art  
News Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Libby Black Works Out in California and Modesto Covarrubias Comes Home to San Jose**  
*Life-Sized Installations Create Immersive Spaces that Explore Desire, Deception, Seduction and Escapism*



Libby Black, *Work Out*, 2007, mixed-media installation, Courtesy of the Artist and Marx and Zavattero, SF

**SAN JOSE, CA** – February 24, 2010 – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) will present two new installations opening in April 2010. Libby Black's *Work Out* will make its California premiere in the ICA's Cardinale Project Room on April 10 and run through June 19. *Modesto Covarrubias: Liminal*, an immersive

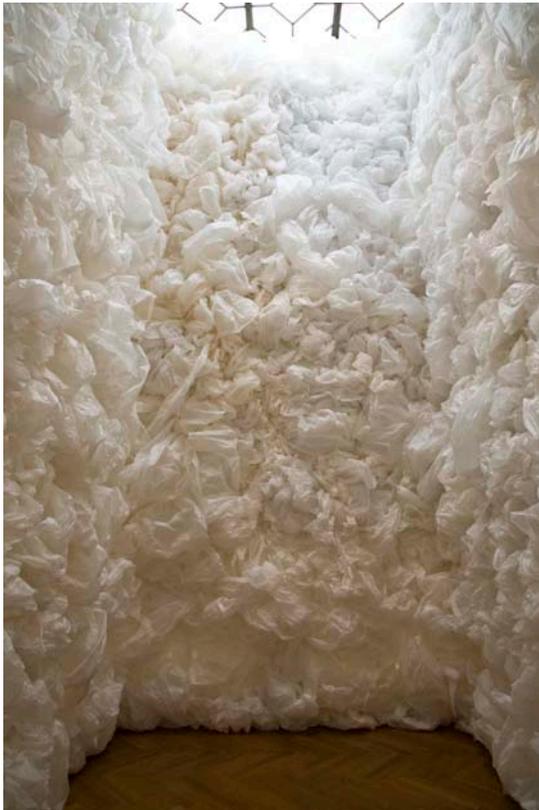
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Libby Black and Modesto Covarrubias at the San Jose ICA  
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sculptural installation by San Jose native Modesto Covarrubias will be on view in the Focus Gallery from April 10 to July 3. An opening reception for both exhibitions will be held on Friday, May 7 from 6pm to 8pm.

In conjunction with these shows, the ICA will host two *Talking Art* programs at the gallery from 7-9pm: a conversation with Libby Black on Thursday, May 13, and an evening with Modesto Covarrubias on Thursday, June 10.

Libby Black's sculptural installation, *Work Out*, is a life-sized paper replica of a home gym replete with famous fashion brand accessories. Using paper, paint and hot glue, Black's *Work Out* presents a fantasy world of luxury goods. The artist has created a fully equipped shrine to fitness and consumerism including a Prada stationary bike, a Louis Vuitton bench press, a Burberry punching bag and a Chanel weight belt. The individual pieces are exact replicas of traditional workout equipment yet the luxury brand identification and detailing in the pieces reveal the decidedly DIY nature of the work. As a result, the hand-made quality of the perfectly faux equipment and accessories reveal the seduction and deception inherent in the work.



Modesto Covarrubias, detail of *Futility Tower*, 2009, Mills College Art Museum  
Tissue paper, steel wire, pvc pipe, concrete, mixed media

Modesto Covarrubias: *Liminal* is an immersive site-specific installation exploring ideas related to shelter, memories and imagined space. As the first emerging artist to participate in the ICA's series of immersive solo exhibitions, Covarrubias joins established Bay Area artists including Theodora Varnay Jones, Christel Dillbohner, Chris Dorosz, Lewis DeSoto and Tim Horn, who have also presented large-scale installations in the ICA's Focus Gallery. As a child, Covarrubias built forts, houses and spaceships – drawing elaborate plans and maps to render his creations. He has long been involved in investigations of space and how it can alter and be altered by one's mental state. And just as the artist created forts, rooms and spaces as a child to transport himself into fantasy worlds, he employs similar

processes today to explore and portray his present-day emotions and experiences.

Covarrubias' multi-media pieces are constructed primarily from paper attached or hung from a room-sized armature made from materials including steel wire, monofilament, wood, and PVC pipe.

These exhibitions exemplify the ICA's commitment to presenting immersive and thought-provoking installations. "When we walk into each space, we are completely engaged in each artist's distinct vision," says Susan O'Malley, ICA Assistant Curator. "With Black, we are confronted with a bizarre consumer fantasy world while Covarrubias' ethereal installation heightens our awareness of the ICA's architecture. This push and pull between each installation provides a space for our imaginations to explore and invites reflection, discovery and connections," explains O'Malley.

Born in Ohio and raised in Texas, Libby Black now lives and works in Berkeley, CA. She received her MFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts in San Francisco in 2001, and received her BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 1999. Her work has been shown extensively throughout the United States in solo and group exhibitions, and is held in both private and public collections in California, New York and Europe, including the Orange County Museum of Art, the Oakland Museum of Art, and The Chaney Family Collection in Houston, Texas.

Modesto Covarrubias is a San Jose-native who lives and works in Berkeley, CA. Covarrubias recently graduated with a MFA in Studio Art from Mills College, and in 2005 earned a BFA in Photography from the San Francisco Art Institute. Covarrubias' work has been exhibited in Italy, New York City and throughout the Bay Area.

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The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is an energetic art space located in downtown San Jose dedicated to making contemporary art accessible and exciting to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. The ICA has long been committed to presenting exhibitions that include visually compelling and conceptually challenging contemporary art, as well as a variety of educational programs intended to help our audiences reflect upon these works. Exhibitions are presented in three galleries and the space is activated by opening receptions, South First Friday gallery walks, after-dark programming in the front windows, panel discussions, printmaking workshops, brown bag lunches and impromptu conversations in the galleries. The ICA is a member-supported, non-profit organization. Admission to the gallery is free.