

Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum

C'est Fantastique!

By **ERIN J. SMITH** / CASA

WITH A FESTIVE FLARE AND ALL THE JOIE DE VIVRE OF PARIS, the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum was transformed into

a late-night, lounge soirée for La Vie en Rose, a combination art exhibition and benefit.

“This is our signature art event of the year, and it just gets better and better,” said Miki Garcia, Executive Director. “It was our most successful to date, and I’m incredibly happy to have had so many people come out and support us.”

Organized by a committee led by co-chairs Candy Assassi, Candyce Eoff, and Mary Beth Myers, the evening began with a private pour from Scott Cellars for VIP ticket holders. The “C’est Fantastique” crowd enjoyed a one hour preview and private sale of Doug Wada’s work featuring photo-realistic paintings of perfume bottles.

Next, while sipping wine and designer cocktails, over 200 guests met with friends and fellow artists between snacking on French inspired amuse-bouches, cheese, and chocolate and enjoying mood music with a Franco International vibe by DJ Fab.

A series of silent and live auctions featuring fine wines, original artwork, and jewelry tempted buyers, including a Florida getaway and a behind-the-scenes lunch and tasting for four at Arcadian Winery.

Guests were treated to a live fashion

show organized by Susan Pitcher of dressed/ready in Montecito, with models showing off creations by Halston, Yigal Azrouël, Thakoon, Raquel Allegra, The Row, YSL, and others.

Artists who donated artwork to the event were Adrienne Allebe, Michael Barton Miller, Amy Bessone, Calico Brown, Alejandro Casazi, Stephanie Dotson, Jayson Eoff, Julia Ford, Servando Garcia, Penelope Gottlieb, Carlos Grano, Saul Gray-

Hildenbrand, Kimberly Hahn, Jean-Pierre Hebert, Mary Heebner, Susan Jorgensen, Ann Luther, Hugh Margerum, Carrie Maseredjian, Bob Mask, Barbara Parmet, Zacarias Paul, Rafael Perea de la Cabada, Gail Pine, Harry Reese, Warren Schultheis, Joe Shea, Dante Sigismondi, Jason Sober, Kat Trajano, Patrick Turner, James Van Arsdale, Mitchell Wright, Kathleen Yorba, Seyburn Zorthian, and Pamela Zwehl-Burke.

“All proceeds from the event go directly to CAF operations – everything from the nuts and bolts of the organization to

educational programs and supporting newly commissioned works,” said Garcia. “CAF is the only organization of its kind in the tri-county area and fills in the gap of supporting the art making in our time. We exceeded our goals and made more than last year.

It’s heartwarming in light of these difficult times, but art is really what enables us to get through it all.”

SB Contemporary Arts Forum is located at 653 Paseo Nuevo. Hours are 11am to 5pm, Tues through Sat, and noon to 5pm, Sun. For more information, call 966-5373 or visit www.sbcaf.org.



Tim Walsh, Miki Garcia, CAF Executive Director, and **Mike Healy**



Ian Smith, former CAF board president and **Holly Mackay**



Nancy Garza, James Garza, and **James Van Arsdale**



CAF Board: **Jan Baxter**; **Carolyn Glasoe**, President; **Miki Garcia**, Executive Director; **Nancy Gifford**; **Candice Assassi**, First Vice-President; **Tim Walsh**; **Jacquelyn Klein-Brown**; and **Nancy Wall**



Back: **Susan Pitcher** and **Gina Vaccarello**, dressed/ready; **Miki Garcia**, Executive Director; **Andrea Chase**, **Candyce Eoff**, **Nicole Biergiel**, **Valerie Velazquez**, **Mary Beth Meyers**, and **Kimberly Hahn**. Front: **Hilary Nagler**, **Serena Zahler**, and **Candice Assassi**, First Vice-President