

# ART from the ashes

## and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

### exhibition & art sale

### raises over \$20,000 to benefit Garden renewal

(Los Angeles, CA, 11/19/09) – Over 700 people came to visit the **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden** on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to pay tribute to a process of rebirth that took place in part through the work of more than 50 artists who donated their time and talent to create one-of-a-kind works of art for the **ART from the ashes** exhibition. The event raised over \$20,000 to benefit the rebuild of the areas of the Garden that were destroyed by the Jesusita Fire of May 2009.

On display and woven throughout the Garden that day were pieces created from raw materials obtained from the grounds after the fire. Scrap metal was transformed into jewelry and sculpture; charred wood made a canvas for painting; ash created glaze for ceramics and a medium for drawing. Multi-media works and photography also played a large part in the exhibition.

There was an emotional charge that affected all who walked the Garden paths. It was more than an installation of art. It was an education in how we look at and utilize objects. It was collision of art and nature and a prime example of how it is possible to make something beautiful and do something good with the bits and pieces that a fire leaves behind.

"This was an incredible event that was beautiful, unique, and enjoyed by the community," said Garden Marketing & Government Relations Nancy Johnson. "That so many talented artists created such an unbelievable array of fabulous art was amazing. The very act of creating art from such devastation was life affirming and exemplified hope for renewal and regeneration for the Garden and this fire-struck community."

**ART from the ashes** could not exist without the support of our exhibition partners and the generous heart in every one of the artists who donates their time and talent to participate. **ART from the ashes** is proud to be a portal for these artists and their work.

**"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see" ~  
Henry David Thoreau**

#### **About ART from the ashes**

**ART from the ashes** is a collaborative of independent artists and volunteers, founded by native Californian Joy Feuer, who contribute talent, time and energy to create art for resource. Artwork is crafted from materials collected from fire site locations after personal items have been removed. Debris that would otherwise be cleared and dumped into landfill is gathered and transfigured into one-of-a-kind works of art through the unique vision of each artist. **ART from the ashes** then hosts a charity exhibition showcasing the art that has been created from the reclaimed fire site materials. A portion of the proceeds from each exhibition is donated to a local or national charity chosen by the business or individuals impacted by the fire.

#### **About the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**

Founded in 1926, **the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden** is the oldest botanical garden in California dedicated to the study, conservation and display of native flora. It covers 78 acres in historic Mission Canyon and features over 1000 species of native plants.

**For more information about ART from the Ashes go to:**

[www.artfromtheashes.org](http://www.artfromtheashes.org)

**For more information about the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden go to:**

[www.santabarbarabotanicgarden.org](http://www.santabarbarabotanicgarden.org)

#### **ART from the ashes PR contact:**

Stacy Conde  
Stacy@artfromtheashes.org  
760 365 7014  
760 464 5967/mobile

#### **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden PR contact:**

Nancy Johnson  
805 682 4726 x132/office  
805 284 6434/mobile

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