Sacred Art
In the Age of Contact
Chumash and Latin American Traditions in Santa Barbara

September 16 - December 8, 2017
www.museum.ucsb.edu

September 15 - January 14, 2018
www.sbhistorical.org

Santa Barbara Historical Museum
This new exhibition brings together a diverse body of objects dating from the first decades following the Chumash’s contact with the Spanish, c. 1769-1824. These materials offer a fuller picture of the relationship between art and spirituality in both Chumash and Spanish traditions, and demonstrate the sustained deployment of Chumash visual systems by native artists in early colonial visual culture. Highlighting themes of sacred geography, language, materiality and resistance, Sacred Art investigates the mutually transformative interaction between these traditions, which have implications on the ways in which the cultural dynamics of Santa Barbara County are understood today.

Sacred Art is curated by Margaret Bell and Diva Zumaya, Adjunct Assistant Curators and Doctoral Candidates, History of Art and Architecture, UC Santa Barbara and is organized by the Art, Design & Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara.

Exhibition Opening Celebrations

Thursday, September 14th, 5:30 pm
Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Wednesday, September 27th, 5:30-7:30 pm
Art, Design and Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara

LECTURE

The Persistence of Chumash Visual Culture in the Mission Period
by Dr. Lisbeth Haas, Professor, History, Latin American and Latino Studies, Feminist Studies, UC, Santa Cruz

Drawing on research completed for her book Saints and Citizens: Indigenous Histories of Colonial Missions and Mexican California, Dr. Haas will discuss the exhibition and speak to the visual and material culture of the Santa Barbara missions from diverse perspectives, and the importance of understanding this history today.

Wednesday, October 4th, 11:00 am
Santa Barbara Historical Museum
RSVP required - reception@sbhistorical.org

Thursday, October 5th, 5:30 pm
Art, Design and Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara

TOUR

Curator Tour
Join Curators Diva Zumaya and Margaret Bell for a tour highlighting the themes that permeate the exhibition: devotion, ritual, materiality and persistence.

Saturday, October 21, 12:00 pm
Art, Design and Architecture Museum

Sunday, October 22, 2:00 pm
Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Thursday, November 2, 5:30 pm
Santa Barbara Historical Museum

TALK

Chumash Artist Roundtable
Curators Diva Zumaya and Margaret Bell will moderate a conversation between Chumash artists who practice their culture's traditional arts.

Sunday, October 22, 3:00 pm
Santa Barbara Historical Museum
RSVP required - reception@sbhistorical.org

SCREENING

6 Generations
Chumash Elder Ernestine de Soto will introduce a documentary film about her family history, which gives voice to the experiences of her female ancestors, dating back to the moment of first contact, through Missionization, Revolt, and beyond. The film also recounts the story of her mother, Mary Yee, the last native speaker of the Chumashan Barbareño language, and her work to preserve it with linguist John P. Harrington and Dr. John Johnson (SB Museum of Natural History).

Thursday, November 9, 5:30 pm
Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Wednesday, November 15, 11:00 am
Santa Barbara Historical Museum
RSVP required - reception@sbhistorical.org

FIRST THURSDAYS
An opportunity to visit the exhibition after-hours

October 5, November 2, December 7
5:00-8:00 pm
Santa Barbara Historical Museum

All events are free to the public.