

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

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2011 Irwin Scholars

25th Anniversary

MAY 25 – JUNE 11

Opening Reception:

Wednesday, May 25

5–7:00PM

Awards Ceremony

6:00PM

**The events are free
and open to the public**

2011 RECIPIENTS:

Kelsey Spencer, Chelsea Ware,

Ellia Sarah Duhart, Kirsten

Spooner, Richard Desanto,

Luke Wilson, Sakura Kelley,

Luis Flores, Olivia Healy-

Mirkovich, Bela Messex, Leslie

Thompson, Joseph Lai,

Raphael Cornford

**High resolution images
available upon request**

<http://arts.ucsc.edu/sesnon>

Artistic expression has historically been an important facet in the development of social interaction. Artists filter, critique, and draw from society; simultaneously attacking and representing their community while investigating society as a whole. For UCSC, the Irwin scholarship was created both to recognize students working toward artistic excellence in painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, installation and digital media, as well to highlight the importance of art in the education system.

“It's really exciting to see how these students have pushed their work since first arriving in our department. Selecting who gets the Irwin award is never easy - there is so much strong work evolving in the studios at Baskin. But I can say for sure that among this group of 13 you will find some of the hardest working and most inventive young artists anywhere. We are very proud of the Irwin exhibition, proud of the powerful and diverse work on view, and happy that even in this dire budget climate, the Art Department can give awards that make a difference.” – *E.G. Crichton, Associate Professor of Art, instructor in Intermedia, Photography and Digital Arts New Media.*

Since 1986, the William Hyde and Susan Benteen Irwin Scholarship Fund has become a public display of support and appreciation towards art and art's involvement in our culture. The artists chosen to receive an Irwin scholarship represent the artistic innovation and social exploration happening at UCSC. Individually, each artist is chosen because of their dedication to their own process and inspiration, but as a collective the Irwin scholars become a representative microcosm of the unique artistic movements happening at UCSC right now.

The 2011 Irwin Scholarship exhibition is on view at the Sesnon Gallery, Porter College, UC Santa Cruz from May 25 through June 11. The opening reception is Wednesday, May 25 from 5:00–7:00PM and will include an awards ceremony at 6:00PM.

The Sesnon Gallery encourages interdisciplinary discourse through the lens of the arts. Gallery hours are Tuesday–Saturday, noon to 5:00PM and Wednesday until 8:00PM. The gallery is located at Porter College, UCSC and is wheelchair accessible. Admission is free and parking is free on Saturdays. Parking permits are available weekdays at the main campus entrance kiosk for \$6/day and \$3 at the Porter College lot for special events. Group tours are available by appointment at (831) 459-3606. Please visit our website at <http://arts.ucsc.edu/sesnon/>.

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