



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Additional photos available upon request

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The Art of Preservation: The Oak Group Remembers Ray Strong

Show dates: Friday, June 5 – Sunday, August 9, 2015



(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) is pleased to present *The Art of Preservation: The Oak Group Remembers Ray Strong* on exhibit at Casa de la Guerra (15 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara) Friday, June 5 – Sunday, August 9, 2015.

The Art of Preservation is a collaboration with the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation and the Oak Group, a collection of artists committed to the preservation of endangered local landscapes. Ray Strong played a key role on the formation of the Oak Group in 1986. The exhibit will focus on Strong's role in the development of the Oak Group and the group's continuing efforts to use their combined talents to foster the preservation and appreciation of open space in Santa Barbara. Works by Strong from the personal collections of Oak Group members will be displayed, as well

as works by members inspired by and in tribute to Strong.

This installation is organized in conjunction with **The Ray Strong Project**, an initiative of Sullivan Goss – An American Gallery, which includes a series of events and exhibitions coalescing in June of 2015 at museums and galleries in the Santa Barbara area. Other participants include the City of Santa Barbara, The Easton Gallery, James Main Fine Art, Santa Barbara Art Association, Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Sullivan Goss – An American Gallery, and the Wildling Museum. For additional information, go to: <http://www.theraystrongproject.com>.

CALENDAR LISTING

The Art of Preservation: The Oak Group Remembers Ray Strong

Show dates: Friday, June 5 – Sunday, August 9, 2015

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 11, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. FREE EVENT

First Thursday: July 2, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. FREE EVENT

Location: Casa de la Guerra, 15 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara

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ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)— For over fifty years the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) has worked to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks. The State has purchased the building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio *Comandante* José de la Guerra and his family—the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. In 2009, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. In 2011, SBTHP was awarded the Trustees’ Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinctive history. **Learn more at www.sbthp.org.**

ABOUT the Oak Group--The Oak Group artists are passionate about nature and committed to preserving local lands for wildlife, recreation, ranching, or farming. Working with conservation groups and landowners, OAK members record the beauty of these endangered landscapes to draw public attention and help generate funds to protect them. The Oak Group began in January of 1986 as a group of seven friends getting together to paint outdoors, sharing inspiration and informal critiques. They grew not only in number but in a strong desire

to help save some of Santa Barbara County's few remaining open coastal spaces from development. Their first exhibition in May of 1986 called "Endangered Landscapes" helped raise money for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and started a tradition of fundandconsciousness-raising for preservation causes.

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