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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 2018

The Arts Fund Presents...

opening reception

Friday, July 20, 5-8pm
*during The Arts Fund's
Funk Zone Art Walk*

exhibition

Friday, July 20
through
Friday, September 7



GALLERY hours:
Wed-Sun 12-5pm, *Mon-Tues by appt.*
205C Santa Barbara Street
in the Funk Zone
www.artsfundsb.org
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SELECTIONS FROM
A VAST AMOUNT OF MAIL

FROM and to

Mark Raymond Collins

Hugh Margerum, Mike Kienzle, Keith Puccinelli

Curated by Hugh Margerum



The Arts Fund is pleased to announce the opening of *postMARKed*, an exhibition of art sent via the US Postal Service curated by Hugh Margerum. A reception will be held at The Arts Fund Gallery on **Friday, July 20th, 2018 from 5-8pm during the Funk Zone Art Walk**. *postMARKed* will feature work by Mark Raymond Collins, Hugh Margerum, Michael Kienzle and Keith Puccinelli.

“In this digital age of electronic communication and keyboard input it is becoming increasingly rare to have an actual piece of hand addressed mail arrive in one’s mailbox. This, however, has

not been the case for me. On most days I will receive one or two and up to seven or so mail pieces, hand addressed in cursive, and often elaborately decorated. Nearly all of these are from one Mark Raymond Collins. What started with a single hand painted envelope that showed up in my mailbox several years ago turned into a torrent of postcards and letters with varying formats, themes and styles. While I have been the main recipient and have responded with a very modest amount of return mail, a couple others - Dr. Michael Kienzle of Iowa City, Iowa, and the late, great Keith Puccinelli - have been part of this exchange and are included in this show.

Creating these pieces, addressing them, and sending them via the United States Postal Service has become a beautiful obsession of Mark Raymond Collins, a good friend, a self-taught artist, witty human, and Consultant to Experts. Part of his impetus for this activity is utilizing and preserving outmoded forms of connection and communication, in particular the United States Postal Service, cursive handwriting and sharing of analog art.

As the years passed and the boxes of mail began to pile up, the idea for this show came about. Seen as a whole, themes emerge, whether they be commentary on the news of the day, the political climate, or explorations of shapes and mark-making with a variety of media. I have found inspiration in the creativity and the sheer volume of this unique expression and hope those who view this show may be similarly inspired.” – Hugh Margerum, Curator

The exhibition will be on view until Friday, September 7, 2018 at The Arts Fund Gallery, located at 205-C Santa Barbara Street. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday from 12-5pm and Monday and Tuesday by appointment. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

About the Arts Fund

The Arts Fund (www.artsfundsb.org) was established as a nonprofit in 1983. The organization's mission is to create, fund and administer programs that foster the arts for the people of Santa Barbara County, to maximize the effectiveness of arts resources, and to nurture collaborative relationships between arts organizations.

The Arts Fund is known for our Teen Arts Mentorship Program, which matches promising high school students with professional artist mentors in intensive workshops representing a spectrum of cultural arts. We are also known for our Community Gallery, which presents professionally curated art exhibitions featuring artists from across Santa Barbara County. Through our Guest Curator program, the gallery frequently invites exhibition proposals from the community in order to provide diverse, thought provoking and exciting exhibits.

The Arts Fund also coordinates the Funk Zone Art Walk and facilitates projects for the Funk Zone Public Art Program.

For more information please visit www.artsfunds.org or e-mail info@artsfunds.org.

Private donations are the essential source of funding for the organization. Please visit www.artsfunds.org to learn about upcoming programs and events or to make a donation to support The Arts Fund.