



**SOMARTS**  
cultural center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS**  
**What Cannot Be Taken Away Upcoming Events**  
**and Extended Dates:**  
**Death Row Animation Screening and Creative**  
**Workshops**  
**August-September Exhibitions Program**

**Upcoming Events:**

**1. Video Screening: *Families, Death Row and Animation***

Featuring [Dee Hibbert-Jones](#) and [Nomi Talisman](#)

Thursday, September 2, 2010, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Screenings at **7:00, 7:20 and 7:40 pm**

**2. What Cannot Be Taken Away: Visual Arts Workshop**

Led by Evan Bissell

Saturday, September 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

**3. Closing Reception - Extended date!**

Artist and curator walk-through Sunday, September 19, 12:00 - 3:00 pm

**San Francisco, CA, August 24, 2010 – SOMArts Main Gallery** is excited to continue the action around [Evan Bissell's](#) exhibition *What Cannot Be Taken Away: Families and Prisons Project* with creative writing and visual arts workshops, the debut screening of [Dee Hibbert-Jones](#) and [Nomi Talisman's](#) *Untitled* work-in progress animation video about families and death row, and to conclude, a special closing reception and artist/curator walk through.

For the first workshop - the Creative Writing Workshop - visitors can break into writing as a creative form, hone their skills, or expand their respective practices by expressing their creativity with the support and guidance of our acclaimed lead

artists.

Next, Hibbert-Jones and Talisman will debut selections from their *Untitled* work-in-progress animation that tells the stories of three families whose loved ones faced a trial for a capital crime, are on death row, or have been executed. Through animation the project gives anonymity to the participants as they tell their unique and often painful stories in their own words. The animation transforms these very personal stories into an emblematic visual language, as the narratives remain true to the interviewees' words. This two-year-long project is a work in progress, produced in collaboration with [Community Resource Initiative](#). Funded by the [San Francisco Arts Commission](#), the [UCSC Arts Research Initiative](#) and the [Creative Work Fund](#). According to artists Hibbert-Jones and Talisman, "The [*Untitled* animation] project gives the audience an introduction to the extreme situations each family finds themselves in. It is a vehicle for voices rarely heard or understood outside of these families and communities." In the words of Curator and Gallery Director Hoover, "This work is crucial to enable these people and their families to tell the stories of love, hate, injustice and retribution, as a result of the prison-industrial complex, and it is our goal at SOMArts to provide the venue and context for this critical cultural dialogue."

The final workshop related to *What Cannot Be Taken Away* is a Visual Arts Workshop where the public is invited to join artist Evan Bissell and learn from this master painter the techniques of his artistic production, and dialogue with him in regards to the creative process and the visual arts.

Lastly, we close the show with an artist and curator walk-through, Sunday September 19, at 12:00 pm and with a reception to follow until 3:00 pm.

Free registration for all public programming and workshops is suggested and available here: [Prisons Video Screening](#), [Creative Writing Workshop](#), and [Visual Arts Workshop](#).

For all workshops, all levels are welcome, as are all ages, but minors (under 18) must be accompanied by an adult. The video screening is appropriate for all audiences.

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All events are free and to be held in the SOMArts Cultural Center Main Gallery  
934 Brannan St, San Francisco, CA 94103  
Enter down long driveway  
Street parking available and flat rate parking is accessible at Brannan & 8th St.  
SOMArts is within two blocks of the Muni lines number 12, 19, 27 and 47.

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

## **ABOUT SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER**

*Insurrection, Connection and Community through the Arts*

SOMArts Cultural Center (South of Market Art Resources, Technology, and Services) maintains one of four cultural facilities owned by the City of San Francisco and operated by nonprofit arts organizations. SOMArts serves approximately 450,000 people with its year-round schedule of community arts classes, theatrical performances, gallery exhibitions and technical services' support of festivals and parades throughout the city. SOMArts also provides affordable event space for local nonprofit organizations to present showcases, fundraisers and exhibitions. For more information about upcoming events, space rentals and technical services, visit [www.somarts.org](http://www.somarts.org) or call 415-863-1414.

SOMArts exhibitions are supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Community Arts and Education Program, with funding from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.