



SOMARTS
cultural center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS

A Sensory Feast

February Exhibitions Program, Commons Curatorial Residency
Award Winner 2010-2011

Exhibition: A Sensory Feast

Guest Curator: Ellen Oh, Sita Bhaumik and Kearny Street Workshop

Opening Reception: Friday, February 4, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Exhibition Dates: February 4 – February 24, 2011

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Friday, noon to 7:00 PM, Saturday noon to 5:00 PM.

Location: SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., San Francisco
Additional public program event information available at

www.somarts.org

Cost: Free

Press Images: [SOMArts Flickr](#)

San Francisco, CA, January 7, 2011 – SOMArts Cultural Center presents *A Sensory Feast*, an immersive exhibition exploring the multisensory nature of food, February 4 through 24. Co-curated by Sita Bhaumik and Ellen Oh, Executive Director of Kearny Street Workshop (KSW), the exhibition features ten emerging Asian American artists, including [Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik](#), Brandon Bigelow, [Jean Chen](#), [Kira Greene](#), [Yosh Han](#), [Amy M. Ho](#), [Arthur Huang](#), Annie S. Koh, and [National Bitter Melon Council](#) (Jeremy Liu and Hiroko Kikuchi). Viewers will be enticed to use their five senses to interact with artworks encompassing olfactory installations, video art, painting, photography, taste, and participatory tactile soft sculpture.

A Sensory Feast will open with a lively reception featuring a pop-up photo booth with wearable food costumes such as a human durian, temporary food tattoos, and gourmet food carts.

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“Food represents and sustains life. It defines us all and literally provides the material from which we are made,” says Amy M. Ho, an artist in *A Sensory Feast*. “In today’s world, we become so removed from the process of growing food that we take it for granted. I think this show will remind people of the role of food in our lives and also provide new ways of looking at food that involves all the senses, not just taste.”

Kearny Street Workshop is one of four recipients of a 2010-11 Commons Curatorial Residency at SOMArts. Selected artists and curators receive funding support and access to one of the largest and most beautiful gallery spaces in the heart of the city in order to expand their practice, engage the Bay Area’s many cultural communities, and turn vision into reality.

SOMArts programming receives support from the Community Arts and Education Program of the San Francisco Arts Commission. *A Sensory Feast* received additional support from the Fleishhacker Foundation.

Public Programming

Bitter is Better?: A Presentation of the National Bitter Melon Council Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Join [The National Bitter Melon Council](#) (NBMC) for a public celebration of the health, social, culinary, and creative possibilities of this under-appreciated vegetable and emotional state of being. With recent projects *A Salt Apology* at [YBCA](#), *Promiscuous Production – Breeding is Bittersweet* at [LACMA](#), and the newly published *Better Living through Bitter Melon – A Manual*, the NBMC promotes the literal and metaphoric acceptance of Bitter Melon (*Momordica charantia*) across cultures and cuisines, and believes that Bitter Melon creates an alternative basis for community – that of bitterness!

***A Sensory Feast* Artist Talk and Closing Reception Thursday, February 24, 7-9pm**

Join KSW and *A Sensory Feast* artists for a lively discussion about food and art. Learn about the artists’ practices and what food inspires them. This event is followed by a reception.

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SOMArts exhibitions and events are **FREE** (unless otherwise advertised). 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.



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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 or call 415-863-1414.

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