October 1, 2010 - The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) is pleased to continue with the second season of Atelier, offering 200 discerning guests an evening of intimate, intriguing, occasionally irreverent interactions with art and artists in the Museum’s galleries.

Stranger Than Fiction is the theme for the October 21 event, with performances and activities that take cues from the recently-opened exhibition of the same name. Just as the exhibition features works that challenge the fine line between fiction and reality; Atelier presents artists, writers, and musicians that indulge in idiosyncratic relationship between art and audience.

Guests are invited for a special performance by featured exhibition artist Frohawk Two Feathers... aka Umar Rashid... aka Hi Fidel. No matter what name he goes by, this artist lives to express.

Visitors also have the opportunity to enter the world of An American Century (another current SBMA exhibition) while watching Manhatta (1921), Paul Strand’s lyrical silent film tribute to America. Participation is encouraged as the audience selects the score from three variations, which are performed live by Santa Barbara-based musician Jim Connolly and company.
Atelier guests are treated to Manhatta martinis and literary-inspired hors d'oeuvres, or can opt for the Strange Brew Bar Lab. This unique “cocktale” concept originated from the notions of the bartender as great listener of life stories, the ancient idea of apothecaries, and the contemporary fascination with artisanal cocktails. In keeping with the narrative element of Stranger Than Fiction, guests are invited to step up to the bar and write their 3-6 word autobiography. Museum Teacher and performance artist, Kendall Pata, and writer, critic, and man of letters, Charles Donelan translate the story into a personalized beverage. Whether the story is bittersweet, salty, short, or dry... the resulting concoctions are in the hands of the mixologists.

A more traditional bar is available as well, serving Brander wines and delicious distillations of RND vodka. All food and beverage are included in the price of admission.

$50 Members/$60 Non-Members
For information or tickets, call 884.6414 or go to www.sbma.net/atelier.

This event has been made possible through the generosity of Cyndee Howard. Additionally, SBMA would like to thank sponsors The Brander Vineyard, RND, and Savoir Faire.

More about the performers:

Frohawk Two Feathers

Jim Connolly
Jim Connolly is a composer and performer living in Santa Barbara. He writes music for The Gove County Philharmonic, The Gove County String Quartet and Lit Moon Theatre, and has composed for choir, musical saw, five string violin, string quartet, and various chamber ensembles. Connolly plays the double bass, saw, banjo, piano, and sings. He attended New England Conservatory.

Connolly has received five Independent Theater Awards, numerous commissions, grants, and ASCAP Plus Awards.

He has collaborated or performed with Nate Birkey, Gilles Apap, Jeff Kaiser, Brad Dutz, Headless Household, Jeff Bridges, Vinny Golia, Eugene Chadbourne, Cougar Estrada, Anna Abbey and his brother Kevin Connolly.
Upcoming Atelier Events:

Friday, December 3, 5 - 7 pm
Chasing Moby-Dick
Melville’s masterpiece is at the center of this multi-faceted feast of interpretations inspired by Moby-Dick. Guests choose their own entry points initiated by artist Tony de los Reyes’ sublime meditations, and punctuated by original music by composer Jake Heggie, whose Moby-Dick opera debuted in Dallas earlier this year. Get swept away with Whiteness of the Whale martinis and ocean inspired hors d’oeuvres.

May 2011
Satire Meets Sincerity: An Alternative Look at the Venice Biennale

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that provides internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA. Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Monday. 805.963.4364 www.sbma.net