



# 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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## Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

## & the California Historical Society Present New Exhibit

### *I See Beauty in this Life: A Photographer Looks at 100 Years of Rural California*



Photographer unknown, Cheryl Ann Holt,  
Miss Wool California, ca. 1968

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) and the California Historical Society (CHS) are pleased to present the exhibition *I See Beauty in this Life: A Photographer Looks at 100 Years of Rural California* at Casa de la Guerra (15 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara) on display February 6 through April 27, 2014. Enjoy an opening reception on Thursday, February 6 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., a free First Thursday event.

In its first Central Coast museum partnership, the California Historical Society presents *I See Beauty in this Life: A Photographer Looks at 100 Years of Rural*

*California*, a traveling exhibition curated by writer and photographer Lisa M. Hamilton working with independent curator Erin Garcia. According to the 2010 Census, geographically the state of California is more than 94 percent rural. Over the past two years, Hamilton has been telling the stories of rural communities in her multimedia work *Real Rural*.

For this exhibition, Hamilton delved into the California Historical Society's vast photography holdings to connect the past with the present. *I See Beauty in This Life* brings together Hamilton's large-scale color photographs with historical material dating from the 1880s through the mid-twentieth century. The result is a complex portrait of the people and places that are rural California.



Charles C. Pierce, Young Chemehuevi Indian Man Holding a Coyote, ca. 1900

The title of the exhibition is taken from an interview that Hamilton did with Modoc County rancher and poet Linda Husa:

“If your poetry isn’t based on something that’s important to you—family, place, the purpose of your life—well then it’s kind of empty isn’t it? Because it has to have that passion to affect other people, to make other people care about what you are saying. They have to hear that there is something there... I always wanted people to understand what was going on in the rural routes. And that there certainly should be some regard for the people there. Because I see beauty in this life, I don’t think it is lonesome. And I don’t think it is dumb.”

This exhibition is sponsored by the Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation, Stephen and Barbara Hearst; Sherwin-Williams; California Department of Food and Agriculture; California Rangeland Trust; Bill Lane Center for the American West; and Julie and Craig McNamara.

Enjoy refreshments from local producers: wine from Roblar, a Santa Ynez Valley vintner, and Mission Mills Olive Oil, made from olives grown at the Santa Inés Mission Mills.

## CALENDAR LISTING



### Opening Reception:

*I See Beauty in this Life: A Photographer Looks at 100 Years of Rural California*

Date & Time: Thursday, February 6, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

Cost: Free First Thursday event

Description: Presenting *I See Beauty in this Life: A Photographer Looks at 100 Years of Rural California*, a traveling exhibition from the California Historical Society (CHS), curated by writer and photographer Lisa M. Hamilton.

**Exhibit Dates: February 6 through April 27, 2014**

Saturday - Sunday, Noon to 4:00 PM

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

FREE with museum admission (\$5/adults, \$4/seniors (62+),

Free/children 16 & under & SBTHP members

For more information: Visit [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org) or call (805) 965-0093

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**ABOUT California Historical Society (CHS)** — is a 142-year-old, non-profit organization with a mission to inspire and empower people to make California's richly diverse past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives. CHS holds one of the top research collections on California history, which includes over 35,000 volumes of books and pamphlets, more than 4,000 manuscript collections, and about 500,000 photographs documenting California's social, cultural, economic, and political history and development, including some of the most cherished and valuable documents and images of California's past.

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

**ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)**— For 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 18<sup>th</sup> century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks and recently purchased the neighboring 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. Recently, 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. SBTHP was awarded the 2011 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 distinct history. Learn more at [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org).