



## PRESS RELEASE

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Art Exhibition: July 13 – October 2, 2009  
Artist reception: Friday, August 7, 2009, 5 – 7:00 p.m.

### *In Focus*

SAN JOSE, CA - Orchard Commercial North First ARTSpace presents "*In Focus*," an art exhibition featuring over 150 photographs from six Bay Area artists who work with the digital camera, scanner, and other photographic devices to explore unique visual perspectives of portraits, landscapes, and the object. Featured artists include: Kirkman Amyx, Joanne Koltnow, Valerie Mendoza, Mary Curtis Ratcliff, Richard Stultz, and Brent Townshend. The exhibition opens on July 13 and will run through October 2, 2009. An artist reception is planned for Friday, August 7 from 5 – 7:00 p.m. Daily visiting hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and are free to the public.

Historically, photography has been used to capture the essence of a living person as well as a means to present various sorts of scientific and legal evidence, and other information. In her work "*Insomnia: 279 Days*," Valerie Mendoza presents a "scientific" study of her dysfunctional sleeping habits, combining self-portraits, personal insights from her daily journal, and written documentation about insomnia uncovered through numerous nights "conducting Internet research". Interested in the mundane realities of daily life, Mendoza brings to our attention the personal struggles and courageous acts that we all encounter in our own homes. Also engaged in investigating new ideas of portraiture and documentation, Kirkman Amyx invites 16 family members to throw 100 darts in his series "*10,000 Dart Throws*". Each dartboard in this series captures the unique throwing patterns of individual family members and metaphorically represents their individual "portrait", which Amyx later combines with other "portraits" to represent an entire family system.

For Brent Townshend, an artist interested in capturing the essence of place, he also considers traditional photography methods and chooses to view the world from a different perspective. In his series "*Looking Up*," Townshend chooses to photograph the sky and ceilings of both interior and exterior places. He gives us an opportunity to view the sky in focus, turning our attention away from the buildings and gardens that are often photographed, essentially moving the

buildings “out of focus” and into our periphery view. From this perspective, we have an opportunity to view the surprising shapes the sky creates above, as well as the textures and patterns from the surrounding buildings.

Whether interested in viewing portraits, landscapes, or the unique beauty of an object, this photography exhibition offers everyone an opportunity to explore both traditional and contemporary perspectives.

#### **About Orchard Commercial North First ARTSpace**

Orchard Commercial is Silicon Valley’s most comprehensive commercial real estate operations company. We provide property management, leasing, construction, and mechanical services, specializing in high-tech R&D, office, warehouse, and manufacturing facilities. For more than 35 years, we’ve worked with investors, brokers, and developers to build value in Silicon Valley. Orchard Commercial possesses local expertise, unmatched customer service, and commitment to excellence.

Orchard maintains a long history of commitment to the Silicon Valley community. In May 2007, Orchard Commercial opened the North First ARTSpace, an alternative art exhibition venue located within a multi-tenant commercial building. Both emerging and established artists living and working in the Bay Area are considered for thematic group exhibitions. The North First ARTSpace presents up to four exhibitions each year for tenants and the community to enjoy. For more information about the Orchard Commercial North First ARTSpace, please visit:

[www.orchardcommercial.com/about/north\\_first\\_artspace.html](http://www.orchardcommercial.com/about/north_first_artspace.html)

#### **Visiting Orchard Commercial North First ARTSpace**

Address: 2665 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134

Phone: 408-922-0400

Hours: Guests are welcome Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; closed Saturday and Sunday

Admission: Free

Map and directions, please visit: [www.orchardcommercial.com](http://www.orchardcommercial.com)

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