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Bob Werling, *Dune Oceano, CA*, 1994.
Gelatin silver print. Collection of the artist.



Dan Burkholder, *School and Trees, Scotland*,
1992/1999. Platinum palladium print.
Collection of the artist.

Local Graduates Make a Place for Themselves at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Portraits of Place

October 8, 2005 - January 2, 2006

August 2, 2005 - In celebration of Brooks Institute of Photography's alumni who have distinguished themselves in the world of fine art photography, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art presents *Portraits of Place*. This exhibition features the work of Bob Werling, Chris Rainier, Dan Burkholder, Scott McClaine, Christopher Broughton, and Rolfe Horn, and traces a photographic evolution from traditional to contemporary visions of landscape. While all six graduates earned a diploma from Brooks, this collection illustrates their present geographic and stylistic diversity.

When the Santa Barbara Museum of Art opened its doors in 1941, fine art photography was already an integral part of the exhibition program. Solo exhibitions of work by photographers such as Edward Weston, Wynn Bullock, Frederic Sommer, and Ansel Adams were presented in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Together, the two institutions - the Brooks Institute of Photography, founded in 1945 by Ernest Brooks, Sr., and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art - established the

reputation of Santa Barbara as a photographic town, though their goals and purposes remained, as they still do, distinctly separate.

The exhibition marks the first time that a concentration of local graduates has been featured at SBMA. While their educational background acts as a natural “golden thread” for the exhibition, the individual accomplishments of each photographer lends further significance. Bob Werling, one of the earliest featured graduates, was born in San Francisco, California in 1946. He obtained Bachelor of Arts and Honorary Master of Science degrees from Brooks Institute of Photography, and to this day, resides in Santa Barbara. He studied privately under Ansel Adams from 1966 to 1970 and with Imogen Cunningham from 1969 to 1975. It was through Cunningham’s introduction that Werling landed his “first real” job, photographing plants at every University of California campus for the Berkeley botanist, Professor Mai Arbegast.

Adams’ early influence is evident in Werling’s sense of style and composition, especially with his most noted subject matter, sand dunes. Through this affiliation with Adams, Werling also came to know other important photographers. Brett Weston and Imogen Cunningham became close friends and mentors to the young artist. Marion Post Wolcott, relying on his darkroom expertise, entrusted her negatives to his printing genius.

Others featured in *Portraits of Place* have also helped lay the groundwork for the future of photographic technique. Dan Burkholder was one of the first photographic artists to embrace digital technology in the early 1990s. He was born in Hagerstown, Maryland and received his BA and Masters Degrees in Photography from Brooks Institute of Photography in 1991. True to his love of the traditional photograph, Burkholder uses digital technology to build images that still look and feel like traditional photographs through the delicate platinum printing process. Originating the digital-negative process in 1992, Burkholder has opened doors for those photographers interested in moving into the new digital technologies without sacrificing the depth of traditional wet process printing.

Also on exhibition at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art is *First Seen: Portraits of the World’s Peoples (1840-1880)* through January 15, 2006, and *The Art of Ancient Glass: The Richard and Lois Gunther Collection* October 15, 2005 – January 2, 2006.

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. Free every Sunday. 805.963.4364 www.sbma.net