

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information or images:

Ann Trinca, 707-812-2201  
trinca.ann@gmail.com

## Making Merry at the Circus and Carnival

NAPA, CA – Napa's unique art house, **the Nest**, is celebrating the colorful world of the circus and carnival with its new theme **BRIGHT LIGHTS : BIG TOP**. The space will be transformed into a spinning, whirling, ride of art and fun merchandise. An opening reception will be held **Thursday, November 13 from 6:00-8:00 pm**. Enjoy accordion music, popcorn and carnival games. The exhibition runs through January 15, 2009.



Angelo's Prayer

Exhibiting artists include Nest founder **Norma Quintana**. Quintana has spent over ten years following and photographing the circus, earning the trust and respect of her subjects. Her luminous portraits of life behind the scenes are a loving history of extended family, of another way of living in the world. Quintana works solely in black-and-white and uses only available light. She creates dark, rich, masterful photographs with an ageless, classic purity. Collaboration is essential to her process. The images, Quintana insists, would not be possible without her subjects' willingness to reveal themselves.

Also on view are the saturated, up-close-and-personal American Carnival Portraits of **Linda Kramer**. Growing up in Pleasant Hill and now living in Alameda, she remembers carnivals as a big part of her childhood.

For flight attendant Linda Kramer, the American carnival is a place to capture souls in transit. "My job is constantly interacting with people," she says, and that influences her photographs as well. "I think that's part of the excitement for me, being able to connect with someone out of nowhere, having them trust me, and then getting a great shot. It's like going into this makeshift little town that pops up, and going away with the biggest prize ever."

Prizes and treasures abound in the Nest's consignment store, featuring Napa's finest vintage and handcrafted gifts. Make this



"ASHLEY"  
Hawaii State Farm Fair, 2003  
Pearl City, Hawaii

holiday unique by giving a gift that gives back to local arts. A portion of profits are set aside to build the “Nest Egg” grants which will be awarded to local artists and arts organizations through the Arts Council of Napa Valley.

**We're now open Thursday!** You can visit between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. The Nest is located at 1019 Atlas Peak Rd behind Jessel Gallery in Napa, CA. Visit [www.napanest.com](http://www.napanest.com), or call 707/255-7484.