



Contributed

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REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY —

John Babcock has been named the 2014 Artist of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission.

Babcock, an internationally-recognized visual artist whose medium is paper, is the county's 28th artist to be so honored.

Recipients must live in Santa Cruz County and have a national and/or international reputation, as well as having contributed to the cultural enrichment of the local community.

At 10 years old, Babcock began his studies at the Memphis Academy of Art. As an adult, he taught high school and college in California, and moved to Santa Cruz in 1975 to finish work on his MFA at the International Institute of Experimental Printmaking. In 1979,

he built a large studio in Santa Cruz County and proceeded to make a career in art, building pictures that have been shown around the world. In 1986, he participated in the first Santa Cruz County Open Studio Tour, which he continues to do each year.

In 2012 he was invited to be a presenter at the Yuma Art Symposium, which drew 400 artists from around the U.S. In 2013 one of his works was included in the national juried show "34th Annual Contemporary Crafts" at the Mesa Contemporary Art Museum in Mesa, Ariz.

He is a member of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, the Santa Cruz Art League and the Pajaro Valley Arts Council

On Aug. 8 at the Museum of Art and History in downtown Santa Cruz at 7 p.m.,

R.P. 7-12-14
Babcock will speak about his work as a documentation of feeling, emotional responses to an idea, as well as the act of making paper, the building of the medium from cellulose and water.

Admission is free to the public. Advance tickets are not available. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis the night of the event.

An exhibition of Babcock's work, titled "Poets, Symbols and Songs," will be on display the MAH in the Forum Gallery from Aug. 1 through Oct. 26.

The Artist of the Year program is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission and the County of Santa Cruz Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services. For information about Artist of the Year, visit www.scparks.com.