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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NANCY MACKO IN FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION AT LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY

Hollywood – The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to present three simultaneous exhibitions at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG): *Hive Universe*, *Nancy Macko, 1994 – 2006*, a solo exhibition; *Perspectives*, a group exhibition of Southern California women artists who are members of the DCA Slide registry; and *Master Printers of Southern California*, a group exhibition of print work, featuring works by Raymond Pettibone, Ed Ruscha, John Baldessari, and Chris Burden.

The exhibition will run from Friday, December 15, 2006 to February 4, 2007. The Opening Reception will be held Sunday, December 17, from 2 to 5 p.m. Music by will be provided by the Ranelin Jazz Ensemble, courtesy of the Recording Industries' Performance Fund.

HIVE UNIVERSE, NANCY MACKO, 1994-2006

Hive Universe, Nancy Macko, 1994 – 2006 is the most substantive and comprehensive examination of Macko's work to date and includes over 60 works spanning various media—traditional and digital prints, video, and mixed media works on wood panels. The exhibition includes two video installations: *Lore of the Bee Priestess* (2004), post-production at Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta, Canada, and *Bee Stories* (2006), created specifically for this exhibition. As part of the national Feminist Art Project, Macko's *Hive Universe* is the forerunning exhibition in Los Angeles to recognize the achievements of the feminist art movement.

Throughout the 1990's, Macko devoted her work to the development of a mythology of bee priestesses, developing her ideas from imagery and information on honeybees. This culture of bee priestesses also resonated with the ideas of feminist utopias. "Conceptually my work finds its greatest resonance with feminist utopian novels that challenge basic assumptions about power between the genders and imagine women-centered worlds in which strong and powerful women live autonomously without fear of the restrictions and consequences placed upon them by today's society," Macko explains.

Today, Macko combines elements of painting, printmaking, digital media, photography, video, and installation to create a visual language. This combination of media allows her to examine and respond to issues related to eco-feminism, nature, and ancient matriarchal cultures, as well as to explore her interest in mathematics and prime numbers, in particular in order to make explicit the implicit connections between nature and technology.

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Macko, a member of the faculty at Scripps College since 1986, was former Chair of the Department of Art and Art History from 1998 to 2003. She is currently professor of Art and Director of the Scripps Digital Art Program. Originally from New York, she received her undergraduate degree from University of Wisconsin, River Falls and her graduate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. Macko has been a practicing artist since the early 1980's. She has produced 13 solo exhibitions and participated in over 140 exhibitions. She has served on: the Exhibitions Advisory Committee for LACPS (Los Angeles Center for Photographic Studies) (1994-6); the Art Advisory Committee for the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (1996-8); the national Board of Directors of the College Art Association (1994-8) and ArtTable (2002-6); and the Advisory Board of the Southern California Women's Caucus for Art (2003-6).

This exhibition is organized and curated by Scott Canty, Art Curator for the Los Angeles Municipal Art gallery and is sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs, Scripps College, and the Mellon Foundation. The exhibition is accompanied by a full color catalogue with essays by Mary MacNaughton, Director, Williamson Gallery, Scripps College; Gloria Orenstein, Professor of Comparative Literature and Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Southern California and author of *The Reflowering of the Goddess*; Mary-Kay Lombino, the Emily Hargroves Fisher '57 and Richard B. Fisher Curator, Vassar College Museum of Art; Karin Breuer, Curator of Contemporary Graphic Art, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco; and Connie Butler, Chief Curator of Drawings, MOMA, NY.

PERSPECTIVES

Complementing Nancy Macko's *Hive Universe*, *Perspectives* features a selection of works by members of DCA's Slide Registry. Curated by DCA's Scott Canty and Mary E. Oliver, DCA Slide Registrar, this exhibition address the issues of nature, technology, and feminism through sculpture, painting, photography, collage, digital imagery, drawing, ceramics, installation, and assemblage. Exhibited artists include: Srboohie Abajian, Lillian Abel, Marsia Alexander-Clarke, Janine Autolitano, Beth Bachenheimer, Denice Bartels, Lynn Creighton, Beverly Crist, Jacqueline Dreager, Carol Es, Robin Parker Garcia, Carol Goldmark, Anne Mudge, Lis J. Schwitters, Olga Seem, Barbara Thomason, Nancy Turner-Smith, and Trine Wejp-Olsen.

Both *Hive Universe* and *Perspectives* are part of The Feminist Art Project, a national exhibition program celebrating the Feminist Art Movement, bringing public attention to women artists' significant impact on contemporary art practice, and guaranteeing their inclusion in the cultural record, past, present, and future.

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MASTER PRINTERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Master Printers of Southern California, organized by guest curator Jean Clad, proves that the world of fine art printing is flourishing, as evidenced by the rise in master printing presses, individually owned and operated presses, and academic presses. This exhibit features the works of major printing presses and individual artists: Bay Park Press: Jim Machacek and Sibyl Rubottom; Bieler Press: Gerald Lange; Flying Fish Press: Julie Chen; Ed Hamilton Press: Raymond Pettibone, Ed Ruscha, Alexis Smith, and Ann Thornycroft; Jacob Samuel Press: John Baldessari, Chris Burden, and Meredith Monk; Scripps College Press: Kitty Maryatt; Patrick Merrill Fine Art Press: Patrick Merrill; and Versailles Press: Larry Bell, Ken Noland, and Nikki St. Phalle. This forum of fine art printing provides a wide variety of opportunities to create unique works presenting prints, albums, leaves (flat sheets), scrolls, journals, folios, codex, and accordion shapes.

Jean Clad has been curating exhibits for more than seven years. She has produced several artists' books exhibits, plus a *Drawing On Unusual Surfaces*, a *Fiber/Fabric Show*, a three venue exhibit of books in Ohio and others. She graduated from UC Berkeley and has a Master of Arts from Cal State University Long Beach.

In conjunction with these exhibitions, DCA's Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is hosting:

Conversations with the Artists, a series of talks with featured artists and curators designed to give the audience an opportunity to engage directly with featured individuals in an informal setting. Three conversations will take place in the exhibition space, where featured individuals will discuss issues and concerns motivating their professional practice. Each conversation will conclude with questions and comments from the attending public.

Conversations with the Artists:

- Friday, January 5, 7:30 p.m. – Nancy Macko
- Saturday, January 20, 2:00 p.m. – Jean Clad
- Saturday, February 3, 2:00 pm – Scott Canty and Mary E. Oliver

Printmaking 1800s to Present, an eclectic selection of prints highlighting many printmaking techniques. This is a family oriented and interactive exhibit.

- December 2, 2006 through January 5, 2007
- Junior Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Park
- Opening Reception, December 2, 2006, 4:00—6:00 p.m.

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ABOUT LAMAG

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and is located at 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, 90027. Admission for Adults is \$7; Seniors and Students, \$3; Children under 12 with Adults, Free. Admission is free during First Fridays (first Friday of each month). The Gallery is open Friday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Hours are extended to 9 p.m. on First Fridays. For general information, the public may call 323.644.6269.

ABOUT DCA

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) serves as a leader to generate and support high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. It provides arts and cultural programming in numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and several arts and education programs for young people. The Department directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee, Art Collection, and Murals Program. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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