



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2007

Media Contact:
Sonia A. Solin
213.202.5543
sonia.solin@lacity.org

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES:

COLA 2007 Individual Artist Fellowships

Visual Art Exhibition Dates:	Friday, May 4 through Sunday, June 24
Opening Reception:	Sunday, May 6 from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m.
Performance Schedule:	Please See Page 2
Conversations with the Artists:	Please See Page 2

The Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to award the **City of Los Angeles (COLA) Individual Artist Fellowships** to fifteen artists. The City of Los Angeles is one of a handful of municipalities throughout the country that offers individual artists grants. DCA's commitment to supporting the local, creative economy, while selecting artists who have demonstrated extraordinary talent, is one of the many reasons why the COLA Fellowship is nationally praised.

Of the fifteen **COLA 2007 Fellows**, the ten visual/design artists are: **Paul J. Botello, Aya Dorit Cypis, Caryl Davis, Andrew Freeman, Clement S. Hanami, Rubén Ortiz-Torres, Coleen Sterritt, Lincoln Tobier, Carrie Ungerman, and J. Michael Walker.** The three performing artists are **Hector Aristizábal, Phil Ranelin, and Heather Woodbury.** The two literary artists are **Diane Lefer and Luis J. Rodriguez.**

The COLA Individual Artist Fellowship Program awards each fellow with \$10,000 to produce new work for a public group exhibition. Fellows are selected based upon years of artistic excellence. Peer panels include local art experts, educators, and community leaders who review more than 150 competitive applications each year.

Each year, DCA presents a selected review of the COLA fellows' premiere artworks. The 2007 COLA visual arts exhibition will be held at the Municipal Art Gallery located in Barnsdall Park, and curated by Mark Steven Greenfield. The 2007 COLA Performances will be held in the Barnsdall Gallery Theater also located at Barnsdall Park.

The Municipal Art Gallery and the Gallery Theater are located at Barnsdall Park: 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90027. The Gallery is open Friday through Sunday, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. Hours are extended until 9:00 p.m. on "First Fridays." For general gallery information, please call 323.644.6269. For theater information, please call 866.881.8399.

Please Note: A catalogue will be available at the Municipal Art Gallery beginning May 4. Design artist Michael Worthington, a 2001 COLA Fellow, will produce the catalogue comprised of works of art from, and essays about the 2007 COLA Individual Artist Fellows.

(MORE)



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLA—page 2

COLA 2007 Performance Schedule

"A Taste of COLA" Preview

Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 8:00 p.m., Barnsdall Gallery Theater

A preview of the opening night followed by a Q & A

"A Taste of COLA" Opening

Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., Barnsdall Gallery Theater

Excerpted presentations of all the COLA. Literary and Performance Fellows.

Hector Aristizabal will present his acclaimed work "Night Wind." Performance audience reception with the artists.

"Sweets for Melba"

Friday, May 25, 2007 at 8:00 p.m., Barnsdall Gallery Theater

A concert highlighting Phil Ranelin's composition in tribute to fellow trombonist Melba Liston, featuring a 6-piece ensemble.

"The Last Days of Desmond 'Nani' Reese: A Strippers History of the World"

Saturday, May 26, 2007 at 8:00 p.m., Barnsdall Gallery Theater

Created and performed by Heather Woodbury

Sunday, May 27, 2007 at 4:00 p.m., Barnsdall Gallery Theater

Literary Artist, Diane Lefer reads from her novel, "Phantom Heart"

Literary Artist, Luis Rodriguez reads from "Making Medicine" and other poems

Performing Artist, Hector Aristizabal presents "IN-TEA-RRO-R-GATOR"

Conversations with the Artists

A series of three *Conversations* will take place on Saturday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m., Friday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m. Selected COLA artists will be available to discuss their work. *Conversations* will take place at the Municipal Art Gallery. Admission to the gallery is generally \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students and seniors. However, on "First Fridays" admission is free. Therefore, *Conversations* on Friday, June 1 will be free of charge.

Fact Sheet about the Artists

COLA 2007 Fellows

Performing Arts:

Hector Aristizábal, director, actor, playwright and psychotherapist develops solo and ensemble performance pieces with the aim of raising consciousness about pressing political issues. Aristizábal grew up in Medellín, Columbia, at a time when it ranked as one of the most violent cities in the world. Subsequently, he is increasingly interested in the healing potential of art as an ancient ritual practice.

Phil Ranelin, performer, arranger, and composer is committed to the Slide Trombone. Ranelin seeks to honor those Jazz legends raised in Los Angeles and who attended Los Angeles public schools by composing works in their honor and performing them in the Los Angeles communities where they lived.

(MORE)



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLA—page 3

Heather Woodbury can be best described as a fictional anthropologist who developed and wrote the acclaimed “What Ever: an American Odyssey in 8 Acts,” featured as an NPR broadcast radio play and published as a “living novel,” by Faber/FSG. She plans to develop a third epic play proving that “loose women” have served as essential catalysts throughout the history and murky pre-history of humankind.

Literary Arts:

Diane Lefer is a fiction writer and activist integrating the politics and personal development of her characters while examining the larger social context including how we define our identity as a society. She’s an award winning author who has published numerous anthologies, articles, books, and works in highly respected literary review journals.

Luis J. Rodriguez is a renowned poet, fiction, and nonfiction writer. His nationally recognized and critically acclaimed work, coupled with his unwavering community service, deeply impacts both the Chicano and Latino communities at home and abroad.

Visual / Design Arts:

Paul J. Botello employs diverse brushwork to create figurative, symbolic narratives which reflect spiritual philosophies, diverse cultural mythologies and contemporary science themes.

Aya Dorit Cypis utilizes projection strategies, photographic slides, video, and mirrors while examining relationships among the political, the psychological, and the physical. Her aesthetic strategies are increasingly formal, minimal, and classical while allowing the viewer space to decipher the meaning of the work.

Caryl Davis, painter, sculptor, and photographer integrates place—geological place, material place, and conceptual place to explore the field between experience and imagination.

Displacement and relocation are larger themes explored in **Andrew Freeman’s** photographic work. He uses the camera to capture the connection between the possibility of precise representation and an aesthetic invitation.

Clement S. Hanami focuses on individual identity and the continual transformation it undergoes living in a diverse society. His recent work provides a glimpse of the malaise that we as a society commit toward understanding our individual complexities.

Rubén Ortiz-Torres examines the rapidly evolving context with which society can experience public space. He is currently exploring 3D design programs to create flexible sculptures or forms that transform themselves, thus representing the absence of limitations of particularity and singularity.

(MORE)



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLA—page 4

Coleen Sterritt employs multi-media sculpture to consider balance, desire, movement, and growth. By inserting found objects or unusual materials into organic and geometrical forms, she reflects the struggle between a sense of order and letting go.

Lincoln Tobier utilizes three-dimensional elements with photography, architecture and geography, and installations in the form of public access radio broadcasts to contemplate the relationship among urban space, within the context of a rapidly eroding public sphere during an age of political spectacles and media conglomerations, the individual, and the community agency.

Carrie Ungerman examines the relationship between gathering, amassing, and accumulation, and stripping, organizing, and containing. Her multi-media works address formal issues such as line, color, and composition and she is purposely tactile with the expectation that art is “not to be touched.”

J. Michael Walker created eighty portraits of Los Angeles streets named after saints using image and paintings to convey the relationship between the history behind the saint, and thereby the name of the street its history. One profound example includes San Julian Street, located in the heart of Skid Row, named for the patron saint of wanderers.

###