



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2007

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**Department of Cultural Affairs presents
humor us at Municipal Art Gallery**

Los Angeles— *humor us* brings together twenty Asian American artists with ties to Southern California who engage in such humorous strategies as absurdity, foolery, and satire in their artistic practice. With over one hundred artworks in a variety of media, the exhibition seeks to create a context in which humor—whether delightfully ridiculous or cynically dark—can be examined and questioned. *humor us* will be held at DCA's Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery from September 14, 2007 to December 30, 2007. The free Opening Reception will take place on Sunday, September 16, 2007, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. with music by Chris Joyner, and is open to the public.

humor us explores the unexpected crossing of humor and Asian Americans. Often the butt of jokes or the comic relief in mainstream media—from Fu Manchu to William Hung of *American Idol* notoriety—Asians and Asian Americans are often labeled as eternal foreigners, model minorities, inscrutable, nerdy and hopelessly humorless. *humor us* highlights Asian American artists who have taken humor into their own hands and become creative stewards of comedy. In doing so, the exhibition challenges the expected parameters of Asian American identity, yet also recognizes the continuing relevance of race and representation as social categories.

To explore the relationship of so-called high art with popular cultural forms and to connect with diverse communities, the exhibition programming will include the *me so funny* performance evening featuring comedy sketches and performance excerpts that highlight the wide breadth of cutting-edge humor within the Asian American community.

Participating Artists

Shane Abad, Tetsuji Aono, Susan Choi, Young Chung, Allan deSouza, Cirilo Domine, Reanne Estrada, Pearl Hsiung, Terence Koh, Byoung Ok Koh, kozyndan, Dinh Q. Lê, Candice Lin, Sandra Low, Sandeep Mukherjee, UuDam Nguyen, Kaz Oshiro, Joey Santarromana, Anna Sew Hoy, and Niphan Suwannakas



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Related Events:

Conversation with the Artists

Friday, October 5, 7:30 to 9:00 pm with guest curator Viet Le

Saturday, October 27, 2:00 to 3:30 pm with guest curator Yong Soon Min

Saturday, December 1, 2:00 to 3:30 pm with guest curator Leta Ming

Me So Funny comedy night with D'Lo, OPM, Lan Tran and Kristina Wong

Saturday, October 27, 2007, 8:00 to 9:30pm at the Barnsdall Gallery Theater

Free post show reception 9:30 to 11:00pm with live visuals by VJ Fader

Humor us is curated by guest curators Viet Le, Yong Soon Min, and Leta Ming.

Viet Le is an artist, creative writer, and curator. He recently curated the visual art show *Charlie Don't Surf* (Centre A in Vancouver, B.C.), and has organized numerous cultural arts projects as a board member of Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association. He is currently co-curating the traveling exhibit *transPOP: Korea Viet Nam Remix*. Le obtained his MFA from UC Irvine, where he also taught, and is working on his dissertation at USC (Dept. of American Studies & Ethnicity). He has received fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, Civitella Ranieri Foundation, William Joiner Center, Banff Centre, Fine Arts Work Center, and PEN Center USA.

Yong Soon Min is an artist and independent curator. Her artistic practice, inclusive of curatorial projects, incorporates diverse media that engage issues of representation and cultural identity, the intersection of history and memory, and the role of artists as agents of social change. Her artwork has been exhibited and reviewed widely since the early 1980s. She recently curated an international exhibition for the Fourth Gwangju Biennial in Korea, and is currently organizing a traveling exhibition that addresses the intersection of popular culture and the traumas of history of Korea and Vietnam. She is professor in the Studio Art department at UC Irvine.

Leta Ming is an art historian, curator and critic. She is currently pursuing her PhD in art history at the University of Southern California in modern and contemporary art, with a focus on 1970s Bay Area conceptual and performance art. Leta was recently awarded a 2007-2008 Predoctoral Travel Fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art. Prior to moving to the West Coast, she lived in New York City, where she was a Helena Rubenstein Curatorial Fellow in the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program and co-curator of the contemporary art exhibition *Social Capital: Forms of Interaction*.



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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 also 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 operates two historic monuments, 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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