



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS PRESENTS
LA RIVER PAINTINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
AT THE CITY HALL BRIDGE GALLERY**

Los Angeles – The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to present the exhibition *LA River Paintings and Photographs* at the City Hall Bridge Gallery, featuring the works of the Los Angeles artists Mary-Austin Klein, David Jonason, Georgia Love, Martin Cox, Ann Mitchel, Oscar Alvarez, and Angelica Esquivias. The exhibit, featuring oil on canvas paintings, photographs, as well as mixed media imaging, demonstrates each artists' ability to create artworks that are inspired by the Los Angeles River.

Most of the world's largest cities, past and present, can be found along the coastal areas, fed by the rivers that criss-cross the cities, penetrating and giving life to the inner ecosystem. The LA River route is encased in a massive elongated stretch of concrete walls, and modern architecture; including bridges, canals, dams, parks, and renovated natural streams and estuaries. The LA River is a prime illustration of the modern human interaction with its natural resources. This interaction has been the subject and inspiration of numerous artists, which are as diverse as the cultural mixing of artistic ideas that are found through out the city.

This art-within-art serves as a continuing representation of the constant evolution of the city as is captured in the paintings, photographs, and works of inspired artists that call Los Angeles their home. Some artists focus their works on the strange juxtaposition of natural beauty with industrial decay, while others depict the harsh truth of the camera eye: graffiti, sewage, run off, pollution, and trash dumping. Many of these contemporary artists highlight the desires of many residents to beautify the LA River. The bridges have served as a source of inspiration to many artists as unification between communities, ideals, and interests.

This exhibition is curated by Juan Garcia, co-owner of Metro Gallery. The exhibition will run from June 12 through July 11, 2008. For more information about the exhibition the public should call Metro Gallery at 323.663.2787.

ABOUT CITY HALL BRIDGE GALLERY

The City Hall Bridge Gallery is operated by the City of Los Angeles and is located at 201 North Main Street, 3rd Floor City Hall, Los Angeles, 90012. Admission is free. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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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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