



MEDIA ALERT
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**MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY TO SHOWCASE THREE EXHIBITIONS:
*From There to Here: Contemporary Southern California Artists from Israel, Whim Wham, and Edward Biberman Revisited***

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to present three art exhibitions simultaneously at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery in Barnsdall Park. The group shows *From There to Here: Contemporary Southern California Artists from Israel* and *Whim Wham*; as well as the solo exhibition, *Edward Biberman Revisited*, will be on view from February 12 to April 19, 2009. The Opening Reception will be held on Sunday, February 15, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. hosted by the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery Associates. Covering multiple terrains, from local history and community, to international concerns and art practices, these perspectives come together at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery in three unique exhibitions.

The North Gallery will be devoted to *From There to Here: Contemporary Southern California Artists from Israel*. The group show features works by ten artists who were born in Israel and who now reside in Southern California with the exception of one artist who lives in Israel, but whose subject is Los Angeles. The works of art presented in this exhibition are comprised of video art and installation, photography, painting, and sculpture. Collectively, the exhibition reflects an engagement with worldwide historic and contemporary issues, including personal history and identity, the Holocaust and memory, and the contemporary art scene. For artists in this community the openness to diversity of expression and experimentation that they experienced in the Israeli art scene is mirrored in the Los Angeles art environment, making the cities a natural match. Curated by Sara L. Cannon, the exhibition will showcase the work of artists Adam Berg, Dorit Cypis, Moshe Elimelech, Noga Elhassid, Halit Mandelblit, Barry Frydlander, Yossi Govrin, Malka Nedivi, Lidia Shaddow, and Tal Yizrael.

The group show *Whim Wham* focuses on the whimsical, the capricious, and the arbitrary side of art and will take place in the South Gallery. Included in this exhibition are artists Davis & Davis, Femi Dawkins, Rick Frausto, Tomo Ioyama, Tracey Keilly, Adonna Khare, Randy Sandel, Wayne Schoenfeld, and David Trulli. The exhibition, curated by Mark Steven Greenfield, assembles a group of artists who employ humor, whimsy, and unpredictability in their works. These artists use a lighthearted tone that only belies their serious intent. The exhibition includes painting, photography, drawing, assemblage, and video.

In the Project Room, the Municipal Art Gallery is displaying *Edward Biberman Revisited*, with works from 1929 to 1984 by this iconic Southern California Modernist, curated by Suzanne W. Zada.

As the art critic Frode Dann wrote, "In an era of great confusion, the work of Edward Biberman stands out as a beacon of irrefutable logic." For seven decades Edward Biberman brought this clarity to the Southern California art scene becoming a major figure in the Los Angeles art community. Known for his open and approachable



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personality, he contributed much to art discourse as a teacher and public lecturer as well as through his art production. During his long art career, he produced paintings that skillfully combined attention to form with a lasting concern for social justice. Biberman established, for himself and the region, an artistic style that is characteristically Californian. This exhibition also marks a return of Biberman's work to the Municipal Art Gallery. In 1971, the inaugural year of the Municipal Art Gallery, Biberman had the honor of being the subject of the Gallery's first solo exhibition. The show brings together twenty seven of the artist's works for Biberman's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles in over two decades.

The Municipal Art Gallery also announces three **Conversations with the Artists**, a series of talks with a selected group of artists and guest curators. The program is designed to give audiences an opportunity to engage directly with featured individuals in an informal setting. Conversations with the Artists will occur as follows: Saturday, February 28 at 2:00 p.m., featuring artists Rick Frausto, Tracey Keilly, Malka Nedivi, and David Trulli; Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m., with Davis & Davis and Lidia Shaddow; and another on Friday, April 3, 7:00 p.m., with the artists to be announced.

On March 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery Associates (LAMAGA) is hosting a benefit screening of Jeff Kaufman's 2006 documentary, *Brush with Life: the Art of Being Edward Biberman* in support of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. The screening will take place at the Barnsdall Gallery Theater, followed by remarks of Jeff Kaufman and Suzanne W. Zada and a reception hosted by LAMAGA. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Reservations can be made by calling 323.644.6269 before March 2, 2009. A \$25 donation is requested.

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and is located at 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90027. Admission is free. The Gallery is open Thursdays through Sundays, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Hours are extended to 9:00 p.m. on First Fridays. For general information, the public may call 323.644.6269.

About DCA:

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) generates and supports 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. The Department provides arts and cultural programming in its numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and historic sites, and manages several arts and education programs for young people. It directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee and Percent for Arts Programs, and the Art Collection and Murals Programs. 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.