



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
Announces Opening Receptions for its
Pacific Standard Time Dual-Venue Exhibition
*Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
and the Watts Towers Arts Center***

*** Thursday, December 15, 2011, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Accompanied by an Open House at Hollyhock House and a
Jazz Performance by the LenaDora Quartet

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)
4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Exhibition Dates at LAMAG: December 15, 2011 to February 12, 2012

*** Saturday, December 17, 2011, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Accompanied by a Jazz Performance by the Nedra Wheeler Trio and a
Film Screening of "I Build the Tower" by Edward Landler and Brad Byer

Watts Towers Arts Center (WTAC)
1765 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002

Exhibition Dates at the WTAC: December 17, 2011 to February 12, 2012

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to present ***Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center***, a dual-venue exhibition examining the institutional histories of two of Los Angeles' oldest and most diverse artistic centers operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

An additional festival program, ***Civic Virtue: Watts Here and Now***, will take place on January 28, 2012 to celebrate the public art and performance emanating from the Watts community in the 1960s and 1970s, while creating new work relevant for today's audience.



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The exhibition and festival are part of ***Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945 – 1980*** an unprecedented collaboration, initiated by the Getty, bringing together more than sixty cultural institutions from across Southern California for six months beginning October 2011 to tell the story of the birth of the L.A. art scene. *Pacific Standard Time* is an initiative of the Getty. The presenting sponsor is Bank of America. For more information, visit pacificstandardtime.org.

Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center will showcase the work of the artists, curators, and community activists whose contributions greatly enhanced the culture of our City and helped to define Los Angeles as an international artistic center.

At the **Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery**, the exhibition is a chronological survey examining the role of civic government in relationship to the development of arts in Los Angeles traced through painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, photography, and film. Intersections between policymaking and art are framed through a timeline denoting key events, architectural plans by Frank Lloyd Wright, modernist artworks scrutinized under McCarthyism, and early citywide festivals celebrating diverse artists from Karl Benjamin to David Hammons.

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery's contributions to local artists are reprised through an overview of its exhibitions, including major retrospectives for Lorser Feitelson, Julius Shulman, and June Wayne. Iconic artists such as John Altoon, Llyn Foulkes, John Mason, Betye Saar, and Patssi Valdez are presented in association with the gallery's history, while experimental performance that occurred at Barnsdall Park by Guy de Cointet and Robert Wilhite, and Senga Nengudi, Marren Hassinger, and Ulysses Jenkins is also examined.

At the **Watts Towers Arts Center**, the exhibition is a chronological survey examining the development of this important grass-roots arts space into an established, nationally-recognized, community arts center. Photography, assemblage artwork, film, and a timeline illustrate the center's early trajectory as an entity focused on preservation of Sabato (Simon) Rodia's Towers in Watts, youth arts education, and community empowerment, with works exhibited by Noah Purifoy, Harry Drinkwater, Sister Mary Corita Kent, Julius Shulman, and Andy Warhol.

Artistic responses to social conditions and historic events in Watts including sculptural projects *66 Signs of Neon* and *O Speak, Speak* are examined along with a cross section of artists engaged in community building affiliated with the center such as: Dale Brockman Davis, Charles Dickson, Willie Robert Middlebrook, John Outterbridge, and Judson Powell. Multidisciplinary arts programming encompassing music, dance, theater, and festivals tied to the Watts Towers Arts Center are also highlighted.



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DCA produced a full-color catalog to accompany its *Pacific Standard Time* exhibition, and will include a foreword by DCA Executive Director, Olga Garay-English, with essays by: the exhibition's guest curator, Pilar Tompkins Rivas; former LAMAG director, Josine Ianco Starrels; writer, D.J. Waldie; and art critic and writer, Suzanne Muchnic. It will also include an introduction by Jeffery Herr, the Hollyhock House historic site curator, and an interview conducted by Herr with artist and former director of the WTAC, John Outterbridge. Historical notes and acknowledgments by current LAMAG curator and director of exhibitions, Scott Canty, and current WTAC director, Rosie Lee Hooks, will appear as well in the publication.

Featured Artists in the Exhibition:

Robert Adams, Peter Alexander, Martha Alf, John Altoon, Don Bachardy, Billy Al Bengston, Karl Benjamin, Edward Biberman, Mabel L. Boyd, William Brice, Morris Broderson, Hans Burkhardt, Nathaniel Bustion, Brad Byer, Vija Celmins, Robert Chuey, Dan Concholar, Corita (Sister Mary Corita Kent), Dale Davis, Guy de Cointet, Charles Dickson, Harry Drinkwater, Connor Everts, Lorser Feitelson, Judy Fiskin, Llyn Foulkes, Harry Gamboa Jr., Joseph Glasco, Joe Goode, William Hale, David Hammons, Maren Hassinger, Maxwell Hendler, Boza Hessova, Utagawa Hiroshige, Rosie Lee Hooks, Ulysses Jenkins, John Paul Jones, Matsumi Kanemitsu, William Kienbush, Edmund Kohn, Edward Landler, Helen Lundeberg, John Mason, Norman McLaren, John McLaughlin, Bruce Nauman, Senga Nengudi, John Outterbridge, Franklin Parker, Elliott Pinkney, Judson Powell, Noah Purifoy, John Riddle, D.J. Robinson, Seymour Rosen, S. Pearl Sharp, Kenzi Shiokava, Julius Shulman, Edmund Teske, John Valadez, Patssi Valdez, De Wain Valentine, Andy Warhol, Timothy Washington, June Wayne, Rex Whistler, Charles White, Emerson Woelffer, Frank Lloyd Wright, Lloyd Wright, and Richard Wyatt

Special Free Events:

Panel Discussion - *Civic Virtue: Action and Irony*

Sunday, December 18, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery

Moderated by guest curator Pilar Tompkins Rivas, this discussion features three of the most interesting scholars on Los Angeles' cultural history: Dr. Sarah Schrank, Cal State Long Beach; Susan D. Anderson, UCLA; and essayist D.J. Waldie addressing the question, "In Los Angeles, how has the municipal government participated in shaping the cultural image of the metropolis?"



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Roundtable Discussion - *Civic Virtue: Working Together*

Sunday, January 15, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery

Moderated by art critic and writer Suzanne Muchnic, this discussion centers around Josine Ianco Starrels, curator and former director of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery in conversation with artists whose work she supported during her years at LAMAG including Betye Saar, Harry Gamboa Jr., Sarah Perry, Connie Jenkins, Don Bachardy, Ruth Weisberg, John Frame, and Kent Twitchell.

Family Drop-In Workshop - *Cool School, L.A.*

Saturday, January 21, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery

Families will learn about the "Cool School" of L.A. artists making work in the mid-1950s to the late 1960s using both traditional and industrial media in unexpected ways. Children and their parents will create their own "Cool School" works of art using a variety of exciting materials.

Performance and Public Art Festival - *Civic Virtue: Watts Here and Now*

January 28, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Watts Towers Arts Center (WTAC)

1765 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002

with

Reception and Concert at Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC)

10950 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90059

Civic Virtue: Watts Here and Now will be part of the *Pacific Standard Time Performance and Public Art Festival*, featuring over 40 events throughout Southern California. As an extension of DCA's exhibition at WTAC, *Civic Virtue: Watts Here and Now* will feature three components: public art, music, and a literary program.

Five contemporary artists, Toni Love, Noni Olabisi, Margaret Garcia, Dominic Moody, and AfraShe Asungi will create a new, temporary public art piece inspired by *O Speak, Speak*, a public sculpture in Watts by John Outterbridge, Elliott Pinkney, Charles Dickson, Dale Brockman Davis, and Nate Ferrance existent in the 1970s. The musical component will be an intimate performance with Barbara Morrison presented by the Jazz Mentorship Program and the Watts Labor Community Action Committee.

The literary component will pay homage to *The Watts Writers Workshop*, a significant cultural program established in 1965 after the uprising in Watts and will be produced by *The New Short Fiction Series*, Los Angeles' longest running



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spoken word series acclaimed as an innovative forum for presenting the best voices in West Coast literature to Southland audiences.

***Civic Virtue: Watts Here and Now* Schedule of Events:**

10:00 a.m. - **Unveiling of *O' SPEAK, SPEAK 2* curated by Willie Middlebrook - Studio Garden**

11:00 a.m. - **Short stories honoring the Watts Writers Workshop presented by Sally Shore's The New Short Fiction Series featuring *From the Ashes: Voices of Watts* by Budd Schulberg**

11:30 a.m. - **The Poet Laureate Program presents *The Early Days in Watts, Reflections and Remembrances* with Kamau Daaood and Erin Aubrey Kaplan**

12:30 p.m. - **An intimate session with Barbara Morrison, presented by the Jazz Mentorship Program and the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC)**

2:00 p.m. - **Reception, concert, and exhibition of *O' SPEAK, SPEAK 2* artists in the Cecil Ferguson Gallery follows at the WLCAC campus, presented by the Jazz Mentorship Program and the WLCAC**

Closing Celebration - *Happy Birthday Sabato (Simon) Rodia*

Sunday, February 12, 2012, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Watts Towers Arts Center

This is the last day to enjoy the exhibitions in both galleries. Celebrate Sabato (Simon) Rodia's birthday and ***The Watts Towers Arts Center: The First 50 Years 1961 – 2011 ~ Where Truth and Art Connect*** by participating in a **Heart of Watts Project Workshop** led by R. Judson Powell.

Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center, the exhibition catalog, and the public art, music, and literary program components comprising ***Civic Virtue: Watts Here and Now*** are all supported by the Getty Foundation.

For more information, please visit: civicvirtuela.org, culturela.org, and pacificstandardtime.org.



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About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

The **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles' 4 million residents and 25 million annual visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and ensures access to diverse and enriching cultural activities through grant making, marketing, public art, community arts programming, arts education, and partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles.

DCA's operating budget and managed portfolio totaled \$38.2 million in fiscal year 2010/11. It consisted of: \$9.5 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program (PWIAP); \$8.9 million in City related and indirect cost allocations; \$8.7 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program (ADF); \$7.7 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; and \$3.4 million in private and public funds raised from foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors.

DCA significantly supports artists and cultural projects through its Public Art Division by administering a portfolio totaling \$18.2 million in PWIAP and ADF funds in FY10/11. DCA's Marketing and Development Division has raised over \$16.3 million since FY07/08 to re-grant to LA-based artists and arts and cultural organizations for special grant initiatives and to support DCA's special programming and facilities. DCA also grants approximately \$2.2 million annually to over 280 artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through its long-established Grants Administration Division.

DCA provides arts and cultural programming through its Community Arts Division, managing numerous neighborhood arts and cultural centers, theaters, historic sites, and educational initiatives. DCA's Marketing and Development Division also markets the City's arts and cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative catalogs, publications, and promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website visited by over 3 million people annually.



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About *Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945 – 1980*

Pacific Standard Time is a collaboration of more than sixty cultural institutions across Southern California, coming together for six months beginning in October 2011 to tell the story of the birth of the Los Angeles art scene and how it became a major new force in the art world. Each institution will make its own contribution to this grand-scale story of artistic innovation and social change, told through a multitude of simultaneous exhibitions and programs. Exploring and celebrating the significance of the crucial post-World War II years through the tumultuous period of the 1960s and 70s, *Pacific Standard Time* encompasses developments from L.A. Pop to post-minimalism; from modernist architecture and design to multi-media installations; from the films of the African American L.A. Rebellion to the feminist activities of the Woman's Building; from ceramics to Chicano performance art; and from Japanese American design to the pioneering work of artists' collectives.

Initiated through \$10 million in grants from the Getty Foundation, *Pacific Standard Time* involves cultural institutions of every size and character across Southern California, from Greater Los Angeles to San Diego and Santa Barbara to Palm Springs. Visit pacificstandardtime.org for more information.

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