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2006 C.O.L.A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS: IN CELEBRATION OF C.O.L.A.'S TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

Visual Arts Exhibition Dates:

Friday, April 28 through Sunday, June 11

Opening Reception:

Saturday, April 29, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Performance Schedule and Conversations with the Artists: **TBA**

This year marks the **Ten-Year Anniversary** of the **C.O.L.A. (City of Los Angeles) Individual Artist Fellowships**. Since 1996, a total of 144 C.O.L.A. fellowships have been awarded to Los Angeles County resident artists. The professional and artistic caliber of these 144 fellows is the reason why C.O.L.A. has been nationally recognized as one of the most prestigious municipal arts funding programs in the country, administered by the City of Los Angeles **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**. Of the **fifteen 2006 C.O.L.A. Fellows**, ten are visual artists, four are performing artists, and one is a literary artist. The 2006 C.O.L.A. Fellows are **Lita Albuquerque, Claudia Bucher, Sam Easterson, Margaret Garcia, Janie Geiser, Jeffrey Keedy, Hirokazu Kosaka, Dan Kwong, Simon Leung, William Roper, Fran Siegel, Sri Susilowati, Janice Tanaka, Denise Uyehara, and Terry Wolverton.**

DCA presents a comprehensive review of artwork by its C.O.L.A. fellows each year. This year's visual arts exhibition is curated by **Mark Steven Greenfield**, Executive Director of the Municipal Art Gallery. The entire exhibition program will be held at **Barnsdall Park's Municipal Art Gallery and Gallery Theatre**, as it has been every year since C.O.L.A.'s inception, aside from the Park's years of closure for rehabilitation from 2000 to 2002. The 2000 C.O.L.A. exhibition was held at the UCLA Hammer Museum, the 2001 exhibition was held at the Skirball Cultural Center, and the 2002 exhibition was held at the Japanese American National Museum.

The C.O.L.A. Individual Artist Fellowship program bestows \$10,000 in the form of an unrestricted financial grant to each artist selected for unique creative merit. Peer panels, including local art experts, educators, and community leaders, review C.O.L.A. applications each year and make recommendations that are forwarded to the Los Angeles City Council for final approval.

The 2006 C.O.L.A. performance schedule and Conversations with the Artists will be announced at a later date, and they will include performance pieces, literary readings, film screenings, and a dialogue series with the 2006 C.O.L.A. Fellows. Admission is Free to all C.O.L.A. performances, screenings, and Conversations with the Artists.

The Municipal Art Gallery and the Gallery Theatre are facilities of DCA and are located in Barnsdall Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles 90027. Gallery admission for Adults is \$5; Seniors and Students, \$3; Children under 12 with Adults, Free. Admission is Free to the exhibition reception, theatre performances, Conversations with the Artists, and during First Fridays (first Friday of each month). The Gallery is open Friday through Sunday, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Hours are extended until 9:00 p.m. on First Fridays. For more information the public should call (323) 644-6269.

PLEASE NOTE: A catalogue with essays and visual images on the visual, performing, and literary artists who were awarded the 2006 C.O.L.A. Individual Artist Fellowships will be available at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery beginning April 28. Graphic designer Garland Kirkpatrick designed this year's C.O.L.A. catalogue. Kirkpatrick was a 2003 C.O.L.A. Design Arts Fellow. Interviews are available upon request. Images of past work by included artists are available upon request (all work to be included in the upcoming exhibition is new work, yet to be completed).



FACT SHEET – ABOUT THE ARTISTS
2006 C.O.L.A. FELLOWS

Visual Arts:

Lita Albuquerque is a renowned installation artist, environmental artist, painter, and sculptor committed to developing a visual language that brings the realities of vast time and space to a more human scale in the natural landscape, and in public sites and gallery spaces, using both ephemeral and permanent materials.

Artist **Claudia Bucher** describes her own work as mixed media, a hybrid of sculpture, installation, and performance that currently incorporates digital video and rapid prototyping, creating layered projects as an exploration of multiple individualities.

Sam Easterson has been strapping tiny helmet-mounted video cameras onto everything from buffaloes to tarantulas in his established career as a video artist.

Painter **Margaret Garcia** is renowned for her emphasis in portraiture, and her work has been exhibited throughout Southern California as well as in Texas and Mexico; she also teaches and lectures extensively on the art of various cultures.

Janie Geiser's work takes the form of film, performance, painting, and the intersection of these forms, and there are emblematic continuities in her work, including an oblique approach to narrative, the quest for an emotional state of suspension, and themes of memory, identity, and loss.

Jeffrey Keedy is a designer, writer, type designer, and educator who has been teaching in the graphic design program at the California Institute of the Arts since 1985, and as an artist he is interested in graphic drawing that is complex, eclectic, precise, and highly detailed.

Hirokazu Kosaka, an artist and Buddhist priest based in Los Angeles, creates installation and performance work that embodies the purity of form inspired by the formal and ceremonial qualities of Zen archery, creating solitary, meditative, and evocative pieces.

Simon Leung, resident faculty in the Department of Studio Art at the University of California at Irvine, currently produces video pieces that incorporate three key elements of music, image, and text, to propel a narrative primarily concerned with the relationship between everyday politics, aesthetics, ethics, and the production of knowledge via representation.

Based in the San Pedro area of Los Angeles, **Fran Siegel** deals with light and perception, utilizing a range of unconventional materials and methods in order to achieve extreme variations in density, including layering, reflection, cutting, drilling, piercing, and the concealing of form.

Janice Tanaka, experimental film and video artist, works from a personal point of reference in balance with objective sociopolitical overviews to produce works that are combinations of the abstract, documentary, and narrative.

Performing Arts:

Dan Kwong is a performance artist, writer, visual artist, and teacher who has been presenting solo multimedia performances since 1989, drawing upon his own experiences as a Chinese-Japanese-American male exploring both the personal and the historical.

William Roper's mode of expression is music and, using the tuba as his primary tool, his work combines composed and improvised music, text, improvised spoken word, and movement, creating pieces that range from purely abstract to agitprop.

Sri Susilowati, born and raised in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, is currently focused on exploring the subjects of community, gender, and ethnicity through dance and multimedia, and in her career has worked on a wide variety of artistic projects including contemporary dance, choreography for large venue concerts, and creative movement for film.

Denise Uyehara is an interdisciplinary performance artist, writer, and playwright whose work combines narrative, movement, image, clay animation, video, music, and found objects, with primary interests in individual and collective memory and the marks left on our bodies as we migrate across borders of identity.

Literary Arts:

Terry Wolverton is a poet, novelist, anthologist, and editor whose fiction, poetry, essays and drama have been published in periodicals internationally and widely anthologized; in 2002 she completed a highly acclaimed autobiography, *Insurgent Muse*, for City Lights Books.