



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY TO SHOWCASE *TIJUANA CRUDE*, *POLITICK*, AND  
*AFTER PARADISE*: CLAYTON CAMPBELL GROUP EXHIBITION

Los Angeles—The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to announce *Tijuana Crude*, *Politick*, and *After Paradise: Clayton Campbell*, three exhibitions simultaneously presented at the Municipal Art Gallery, located in Barnsdall Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90027, September 16 through November 26, 2006. Punctuated by political resolve, these three exhibits work together to highlight prevailing sentiments and issues finding their way into common discourse.

While American political debate centers around immigration and the question of borders, *Tijuana Crude*, asserts the undisputed connection between neighbors in Mexico and the megalopolis that extends from Los Angeles to the Mexican border. This group exhibition of contemporary artists from Tijuana, Mexico, will showcase the work of Mely Barragán, Franco Méndez Calvillo, Tania Candiani, Roberto Córdova, Antonio Escalante, Gabriela Escarcaga, Charles Glaubitz, Aldo Guerra, Alfredo Gutierrez, Julio Orozco, Daniel Ruanova, Irma Sofia Poeter, Roberto Rosique, and Ricardo Sanders. Curated by Adolfo V. Nodal, in cooperation with Consejo Fronterizo de Arte y Cultura (COFAC), *Tijuana Crude* introduces the vibrant, bohemian art scene developing in Tijuana and reinforces the absence of borders in art production. On Tijuanan culture, Al Nodal states: "Today, as the California National Guard is militarizing the United States/ Mexico border and a \$2 billion fence is being planned, the Tijuana culture appears boundless and ready to expand its influence northward and beyond." *Tijuana Crude* will be exhibited in the North Gallery.

*Politick*, a group exhibition of Southern California Artists inspired by political events both past and present, will showcase the work of Judy Baca, Mariona Barkus, Sandow Birk, Robbie Conal, Einar and Jamex de la Torre, Zig Gron, and Ben Sakoguchi. Curated by Mark Steven Greenfield, Director of the Municipal Art Gallery, *Politick* is a stimulating continuation of the dialogue between contemporary political thought and art, and features an eclectic array of visual media—from pop-culturally iconic forms such as video and satirical posters, to more traditional forms such as glass and painting. Greenfield says of the socially active artists: "Their almost barometric intuition has given us work that entertains, ridicules, enlightens, saddens, and in all instances, causes us to think about things just a bit differently." *Politick* will be exhibited in the South Gallery.

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Group Exhibition--2

*After Paradise: Clayton Campbell*, a solo exhibition of photography based on Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, will showcase the work of Clayton Campbell, a Los Angeles based artist. Drawing on the themes of Dante's 13<sup>th</sup> century *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*, written while in exile, Campbell focuses his series of 45 photographs on his own journey of consciousness and places it within the context of Los Angeles. Beginning with a series of pieces photographed at the Los Angeles Erotic Convention, Campbell captures those who have disappeared behind the personas they have created for themselves. He segues into self-portraiture that signals the artist's attempt to individuate and become personally and artistically aware, and finally capitulates with a section of images of the Los Angeles' Forest Lawn Cemetery, a faux neo-classical garden symbolizing, for the artist, a landscape of pursued dreams. Rather than presenting literal illustrations for Dante's tome, Campbell instead decided to interpret and infuse the text with a shared introspection: "I wanted to refer to the states of mind Dante presents. He came into consciousness as an individual and perhaps attained a peace with life." *After Paradise: Clayton Campbell* will be exhibited in the Project Room.

The Opening Reception will be held Sunday, September 17, 2006, from 2 to 5 pm. Music provided by The Susie Hanson Latin Jazz Band, courtesy of the Recording Industries' Music Performance Trust Fund. The Reception is open to the public and free for admission.

Conversations with the Artists, a supplement to the exhibition, will occur as follows: Saturday, September 30, 2:00 pm, with *Tijuana Crude* curator, Adolfo V. Nodal and featured artists from his exhibition; Saturday, October 21, 2:00 pm, with *After Paradise: Clayton Campbell* artist Clayton Campbell and *Politick* artist Mariona Barkus; and Friday, November 3, 7:00 pm, a special Election Day event with *Politick* artists, including Robbie Conal, Zig Gron and Judy Baca.

Municipal Art Gallery is a facility of the DCA and located in Barnsdall Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90027. *Tijuana Crude*, *Politick*, and *After Paradise: Clayton Campbell* may be viewed during operating hours and during the Opening Reception. Exhibition hours are as follows: Friday through Sunday, 12 to 5 pm and the first Friday of every month, 12 to 9 pm. General admission is \$7 for Adults; \$3 for Seniors and Students; and free for children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Admission is free for the Opening Reception and on First Fridays. For more information, the public should call 323.644.6269 or write [cadmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cadmag@sbcglobal.net).

The goal of the DCA is to enhance the quality of life for Los Angeles' 3.9 million residents and 25.1 million annual visitors. We accomplish this goal by generating and supporting high quality arts and cultural experiences. We ensure access to those experiences through grant making, marketing, development, communication, and building relationships with our community partners. Our challenge is to be a catalyst for the delivery of art, culture, and heritage to every neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles.

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