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June 25, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CALENDAR / ART

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Post-American L.A.

August 1 – September 26, 2009

Opening Reception August 1, 2009 6:00 – 10:00pm

Santa Monica, CA – On August 1st, 18th Street continues its 2009 exhibition season Almost Utopia LA 2019, with the exhibition ***Post-American L.A.*** curated by **Pilar Tompkins** for our main gallery and project room. The exhibition features artists that question the scope and impact of American predominance, from the international stage to municipal politics, including how this might manifest on a local level in the next 10 years, Post-American LA features artists **Carolina Caycedo, Sandra de la Loza, Hugo Hopping, Ashley Hunt, Vincent Johnson, Glenn Ligon, Adrian Paci, Vincent Ramos, and Chen Shaoxiong.**

As part of the exhibition **18th Street's 2009 Artist Fellow Sandra de la Loza**, will host a series of encounters and discussions entitled ***The Revolution Will...*** bringing together individuals from diverse sectors to interface on topics such as environmentalism, labor and alternative economies, and the future of cultural production. Resulting materials including sound recordings, video footage, photographs, collectively created drawings and maps will be incorporated into an ongoing multi-media installation, in which the artist acts as a performative archivist.

Gallery hours are Monday – Friday 10am-6pm. 18th Street Arts Center is located at 1639 18th Street, Santa Monica. For further information and images please visit our pressroom/gallery at <http://18thstreet.org/pressroom.html>

CRITICAL GLOBAL SHIFTS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN NEXT EXHIBITION

Tompkins asks of the artists in the show, “How will we find our footing in a new global society without fully examining our preparedness on the local level?”

Adrian Paci's video works are rooted in collective and personal experiences surrounding mass expatriation.

In the work ***A WORLD MAP: in Which We See...***(2004), **Ashley Hunt** presents a very telling flow chart that illustrates how super-structures of globalization filter down to the current conditions of individuals across the world.

In the video ***Ink City*** (2005), **Chen Shaoxiong** takes the viewer through a day in the life of what a modern, global mega-city looks and feels like.

Vincent Johnson's photographic montages and **Carolyn Caycedo** multi-media productions examine questions and concepts of nationalism and citizenship.

Glen Ligon's silk-screened mural *Hands* (1996) calls the viewer's attention to group consciousness, while **Hugo Hopping** speculates on the issues that could exist as the source materials for artistic discussion in the near future in his conceptual, sculptural installation, *New Directions for Future Pilgrims*.

As the world rebalances its centers of power, recoups its financial markets, the changing composition of Los Angeles, and realigns its global partnerships, the artists address the question; Will we be post-American in 2019?

About the Curator

Pilar Tompkins is curator of the Claremont Museum of Art (CMA). Recent exhibitions include Multiverse, The Passerby Museum, Vexing: Female Voice of East L.A. Punk, solo exhibitions with Zoe Crosher and Maya Schindler at CMA and L'Ottava Tavola: An Etymology of Contemporary Codes in Cortona, Italy. Additionally, she is director of the Latin American branch of the Artist Pension Trust, APT: Mexico City, a program providing long-term financial and curatorial opportunities to artists around the world. In 2006 she was a founding director and curator of the MexiCali Biennial, a bi-national art exhibition and music event transcending the socio-political and physical constraints of the US/Mexico border. Ms. Tompkins has held positions as director of leading contemporary galleries The Project, MC, Anna Helwing Gallery and Patricia Faure Gallery where she worked with established artists from the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia including Julie Mehretu, Aernout Mik, Paul Pfeiffer, Jose Damasceno and Mark Bradford.

About 18th Street Arts Center

18th Street annually sets a theme for its exhibitions, which acts as a unifying principle for the curators and artists working with the center. The theme for 2009 is *Almost Utopia: Los Angeles in 2019*. 18th Street Artistic Director Clayton Campbell says "I am asking the curators and artists involved with *Almost Utopia* to look forward a mere ten years with optimism. And, to find the desire to expand our worldview through the art making and 'outside the box' ideas of our guest artists. With the election of a new administration we are in a proactive era, yet remain mindful of the challenges in accomplishing reform and improvements in quality of life issues. In a new economic reality and rapidly evolving political and social infrastructure in California, Los Angeles is changing at record speed in ways yet to be fully understood. *Almost Utopia* may provide some clues to the direction already underway."

18th Street Arts Center programs are generously funded by the City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Arts Commission, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, California Community Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the James Irvine Foundation, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and the Getty Foundation.

18th Street Arts Center's mission is to provoke public dialogue through contemporary art making. 18th Street is a community which values art making as an essential component of a vibrant, just and healthy society.

END September 26, 2009-