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**For Immediate Release**



## **November 7, 2004 to February 27, 2005**

(Laguna Beach, CA—October 4, 2004) *The OsCene: Contemporary Art and Culture in OC*, November 7, 2004 to February 27, 2005, is a survey exhibition of Orange County artists working in all media including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, multi-media installations, video/film, sound/music, architecture, fashion, and tattoo art. By emphasizing the often underestimated art of the immediate area, *The OsCene* (pronounced *o-seen*) serves as a counterpoint to the Orange County Museum of Art's broader themed 2004 California Biennial that runs concurrently with *The OsCene*.

In fact, it has been over twenty years since a survey exhibition of contemporary art in Orange County has been organized by a museum (the last major effort being done by Newport Harbor Art Museum in 1979). Tremendous growth and change have occurred both to the art scene and culture in Orange County during this period. Consider these facts: there are now more people per square foot in Orange County than in Los Angeles; there has been a substantial increase in contemporary art centers, galleries, and dedicated artists residences; art departments at OC's colleges and universities have grown dramatically; cities like Santa Ana and Laguna Beach are increasingly becoming known and are marketing themselves as world-wide art destinations; Orange County has an umbrella arts organization, Arts Orange County, that partly serves to focus and highlight the arts here; and OC also sports the most active chapter of The Business Committee for the Arts, the national organization which recognizes and encourages corporate support of the arts. In addition, there is now a weekly periodical, the *OC Weekly*, which pulls together the art sprawl of OC each week, not to mention several magazines, *Coast* and *Riviera*, which devote large sections to the exhibitions and artist's of OC.

So, how good is the art that is being made in Orange County? *The OsCene* attempts to answer this question with its survey exhibition drawn from over 400 artists who submitted work in an open call.

The curatorial team includes Tyler Stallings, Laguna Art Museum chief curator; Jacqueline Bunge, Laguna Art Museum curatorial assistant; Keiko Beatie, guest curator of film; and Tim Schwab, guest curator of music. The exhibition has been organized by Laguna Art Museum.

Major support to make this exhibition possible has been provided by *OC Weekly*, [www.ocweekly.com](http://www.ocweekly.com).



Film editing services have been underwritten by Optical Visions [www.opticalvisions.com](http://www.opticalvisions.com), with special support from Streaming Media [www.streamingmedia.com](http://www.streamingmedia.com).

## **ART**

The 40 artists and designers included in the exhibition are:

Misty Burrue	Jason Keller
Bryan Cantley	Jeff Koegel
Amy Caterina	Matt Kotch
Torii Cooper	Aaron Kraten
Alexandra de Alcala	Lady, Sir & Her
Tom Dowling	Viet Le
Daniel du Plessis	(Mr.) Dana Lovell
Jorg Dubin	Robbie Miller
Karen Feuer-Schwager	Christine Nguyen
Kebe Fox	Willie O'Leary
Sherié Franssen	Opie Ortiz
Jacques Garnier	Michael Reafsnyder
Jeff Gillette	Clayton Spada
Jimi Gleason	Vonn Cummings Sumner
Marcia Hafif	Ed Templeton
Laurie Hassold	Elizabeth Turk
Chris Hoff	Steve Vandemon
Chuck Huang	Emigdio Vasquez
Image Comics	Richard Ward
Fat Mark Kaake	Chie Yamayoshi

In the last few years, the cultural face of Orange County has been enhanced with the addition of vibrant contemporary art centers, galleries, and artist residencies including contemporary art centers such as Grand Central Art Center in the Santa Ana Artist Village, Huntington Beach Art Center, and the Beall Center for Art and Technology at University of California Irvine. New, cutting-edge contemporary galleries include The Shed in Newport Beach, Square Blue Art in Costa Mesa, The Office: An Art Space in Huntington Beach, Greenwood Chebithes Gallery and [seven-degrees], both in Laguna Beach. Many of these organizations also have residency programs, which have hosted well-known artists from across the nation and abroad. They join already established galleries and organizations that have been focusing on cutting-edge contemporary art such as Peter Blake Gallery, Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, both in Laguna Beach, Chapman University's Guggenheim Gallery in Orange, University of California Irvine

Art Gallery, California Statue University Fullerton's Main Gallery, and the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art in Santa Ana.

## **FILM**

The 41 drama, animated, and documentary films include:

### Feature Films

*Arizona*, Daniel Holechek & David Holechek  
*Drag Nuns*, Ren Blood  
*Farther Than The Eye Can See*, Michael Brown & Josh Colover  
*Nihi*, Brooks Guyer & Jimbeau Andrews  
*Nobody's Hero*, Michael Spencer Taylor  
*She Said*, Trish Kenney & Andrew VanderStoep  
*Will Unplugged*, Rajan Shandil

*Collorgo's Day Off*, Alex Melli  
*The Day of Ray*, RJ Ward  
*Elevator Etiquette*, Melody Rock  
*Falling*, Derek Doi  
*Fleeting*, Robin Brown  
*Frame Job Miki Dora in Hollywood*, Antonio Beecroft  
*Gotan Mora*, Andres Buigues  
*Head*, Chris Weller  
*The Horse Trader*, Alex Melli  
*How Sweet It Is*, Shea McIntee & Hoss Sarbaz  
*Humdrum*, Bryan Irving  
*The One Who Wears Red*, Heather Coker  
*Paddy Takes A Meeting*, Dermott Petty  
*Pagliacci's Curse*, Wout Brusselaers  
*Possibilities A Tribute To Special Olympics*, Julie Ford  
*Rastakhiz*, Iman Afar & Hoss Sabaz  
*Rules Of The Game*, Marton Varo  
*Silent Village*, Rajendra Desai  
*Snake vs. Iron Fist*, Colter Freeman  
*Unspoken*, Stephan Jonas  
*War*, Michael Spencer Taylor  
*Within An Endless Sky*, Lance Winkel

### Short Films

*Actor*, Walter Koenig, Bob Conrad  
*Adored in Languages I Don't Understand*, Jon Beau Lee  
*Ally*, Jason Mirch  
*Angel*, Joe McGarvey  
*Answers of Emptiness*, George Russell  
*The Art Police, No Exit*, Tim Russ  
*Before My Eyes*, Mathew Lundstrom  
*Blue Note 10 Shorts*, Jeff Beals  
*Blue Yonder Ranch*, Vanessa Harris  
*Breathe*, Kyle Brown  
*Claustrophobia*, Brad McLaughlin

The guest curator for the film component of *The OsCene* is Keiko Beatie, Director of Program Development and Special Projects for the Newport Beach Film Festival. Keiko is also a contributing writer to Film Festival Today, Filmfestivals.com, Digital Media Net, Kodak Campus Beat, to name a few. Furthermore Keiko is a creative consultant and programmer for the San Diego Cinema Society and Laguna Beach Film Society while also speaking on panels at many festivals and filmmaker Programs.

“The Orange County film scene is a growing creative force in comparison to 10 years ago,” states Beatie. With the development of the Orange Coast College Film Department, and the expansion of the Chapman University, Dodge College of Film Media and Art, young filmmakers from across the country now consider Orange County as an emerging force to study film. Consequently, the films made from OC film schools are now screening at the top Film Festivals in the world, winning awards, and respect. The Writers Workshop Program at UCI has had the success of Academy Award winning films, with *Schindler's List* being most noteworthy. Arts in Orange County have transcended to reach this diverse community. With that, film and filmmakers are leading the way with creativity and excellence to highlight the visuals of cinema.

## MUSIC

The 17 bands include:

The Barstow Boys  
The Blank Tapes  
Blue Wales  
Geisha Girls  
Gentlemen of Leisure  
Image Bulletin  
Layton  
Lomax Monk

Mad Man Moon  
Northwest  
OO Soul  
Part the clouds  
Pistolero  
Satisfaction  
60 Watt Kid  
Sound Head  
Stanley Lucas Revolution

With its intersection of material wealth, suburban ennui, teenage unrest, and beach/skate culture, Orange County has historically been a breeding ground for popular and influential music acts. *No Doubt*, *Rage Against the Machine*, *The Offspring* and *Social Distortion* are just a few of the many who symbolize Orange County's contribution to popular culture. But who's making the noise now? This is what we are exploring with *The OsCene Sound Wall*.

This interactive sound installation will give the viewers a chance to see and listen to upcoming Orange County bands. From folk influenced rock to wildly experimental, all of it will be represented in a colorful hands-on installation featuring ephemera from the bands.

The guest curator for the music component of *The OsCene* is Tim Schwab, a founding member of The Revolver Project and local DJ both for clubs and on KUCI 88.9 F.M. in Irvine. Schwab has also preformed in bands and various musical projects in Orange County for over 15 years.

## LECTURES AND PANELS

### **Talk of the Town Lectures**

Sunday, November 7, 1:00 p.m.

#### **Sex Behind the Curtain: Eroticism in the art of *The OsCene***

Artists Sherié Franssen, Lady, Sir & Her, Viet Le, and Ed Templeton will discuss the use of eroticism in their work that includes fashion, painting, and photography. Laguna Art Museum chief curator Tyler Stallings will moderate the panel. Please be advised that imagery with sexual content will be presented.

Sunday, December 5, 1:00 p.m.

#### **The Spatial Orchestration of Form:uLA Dimension Laboratory**

Architects Bryan Cantley and Kevin O'Donnell, whose work is included in *The OsCene*, will discuss their theoretical architecture influenced by the vine structure of the kudzu plant.

Sunday, January 9, 1:00 p.m.

#### **Jody Zellen**

The artist will discuss her site-specific installation at the Museum, *Other Places*, and past work.

Sunday, January 30, 1:00 p.m.

**The Work of Roger Armstrong**

The artist and Laguna Art Museum curator of collections Janet Blake will discuss his mini-retrospective of watercolors created over the past decades. A watercolor workshop/demonstration will follow.

Sunday, February 13, 1:00 p.m.

**Steve Vandemon: Cars as Art**

Vandemon, an artist in *The OsCene*, will present a demonstration workshop that highlights his airbrushing skills as applied to custom painting on cars and in his artwork.

Sunday, February 27, 1:00 p.m.

**Laying It On: Painting in The OsCene**

A panel of five painters, Alexandra de Alcala, Daniel du Plessis, Aaron Kraten, Karen Feuer-Schwager, and Emigdio Vasquez, moderated by Laguna Art Museum chief curator Tyler Stallings.

**Lectures are free to members and free to non-members with Museum admission**

FILM SCREENINGS

Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

**Juicy Shorts from the Orange**

An anthology of short films included in *The OsCene* will be screened.

Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.

**Peel the OC Waters: Surf Films from The OsCene**

*Nihi*, a feature documentary by Brooks Guyer, on Hawaiian Waterman Titius Nihi. *War*, a short by Michael Spencr Taylor, that mixes current politic and surf in an edgy style. *Frame Job Miki Dora in Hollywood*, a short by Antonio Beecroft, on the surf legend Miki Dora viewed from a unique perspective. *Blue Note 10 shorts*, selected shorts by Jeff Beals, looks at sweet surf spots with a nostalgic eye.

Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.

**Feature Film**

*Farther Than The Eye Can See*, an award-winning feature documentary by Michael Brown, about a blind hiker's quest to climb Mount Everest.

Guest film curator Keiko Beatie will be present at the screenings

**Screenings are \$5 to members, seniors, and students, and \$7 to non-members.**

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Sunday, November 14, 1:00 p.m.

Acoustic performances by the *Blue Wales*, a band featured in *The OsCene*.

Sunday, December 12, 1:00 p.m.

Acoustic performance by *The Soundhead*, a band featured in *The OsCene*.

Guest music curator Tim Schwab will be present at the performances.

**Performances are free to members and free to non-members with Museum admission**

### OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, November 13, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

*OC Kids, Art, and Fashion Fun Day*

Laguna Art Museum will inaugurate the opening of its Learning Center with painting demonstrations by the top artists from many of Orange County's legendary surf companies. Hobie Sports (represented by the infamous Chad Carothers) and OP are among several participants providing their top artists to demonstrate painting styles and techniques. These artists will be painting directly on the walls of the Learning Center. An array of other activities including a fashion show, henna tattoos, and art projects will be offered as well.

First Thursday Art Walks

Members are encouraged to come and enjoy the Members Lounge during First Thursdays, in the *Surf Culture Redux* exhibition for December 2, January 6, and February 3.

### CONCURRENT EXHIBITIONS

November 7, 2004-February 27, 2005

**The Many Faces of Roger Armstrong**

**Jody Zellen: Other Places**, site-specific installation

**Surf Culture Redux**, ongoing through October 2, 2005

**Laguna Impressions: Student work from Anneliese School**

Young Artists Society Gallery

**Art Rental & Sales Gallery**

Featuring artists Jennifer Griffiths, Susan Rush and Michael Slaght, and John Taylor

Laguna Art Museum Exhibitions Traveling:

**Whiteness, A Wayward Construction**, University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville, VA, October 16-December 23, 2004.

Laguna Art Museum is heir to the Laguna Beach Art Association, the oldest cultural institution in Orange County, California founded in the summer of 1918. Permanent collections and exhibitions feature historical, contemporary, and pop-culture-oriented art, with an emphasis on the art of California.

Laguna Art Museum is located at 307 Cliff Drive in Laguna Beach. The Museum is open **daily**, including Monday holidays, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is free to the public from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. the first Thursday of every month. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors and students. Children

under 12 are admitted free. For more information on the Museum, please call between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 949.494.8971, extension 0 or visit the Museum's website at [www.lagunaartmuseum.org](http://www.lagunaartmuseum.org).

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