



Palo Alto
ARTCenter

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA, 94303

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

Contact:

Anna Weldon, Publicist

Phone: 650-329-2605

Email: anna.weldon@cityofpaloalto.org

Linda Craighead, Director

Phone: 650-329-2519

Email: linda.craighead@cityofpaloalto.org

Signe Mayfield, Curator

Phone: 650-329-2179

Email: signe.mayfield@cityofpaloalto.org

The Palo Alto Art Center Announces...
Fall 2007 Exhibitions / September 28 – December 22, 2007

"A Model Building"

&

"From Dwellings Forward: Metalwork by Marilyn da Silva"

~ Public Preview: September 27, 2007, 7:00-8:30 PM ~

PALO ALTO, Calif. – August 23, 2007 – Art and architecture converge as a broad theme connecting the Palo Alto Art Center's (PAAC) two fall exhibitions, *A Model Building* and *From Dwellings Forward: Metalwork by Marilyn da Silva*, on view from September 28 - December 22, 2007. Through personal narratives, social commentary, or forward-thinking concepts, the exhibitions speak to how a building may be live in our desires, imagination, or culture. *A Model Building* explores notions of dream homes, concepts for buildings with utopian ideals or solutions for social habitats, and anthropomorphic representations of buildings. Contemporary art works from a variety of artists have been created in the visual language of architectural models, or plans, while works by architects often emerge as striking art objects. The exhibition also features a video on *The House That Herman Built*, 2006 (Jackie Sumell/Herman Wallace). A hands-on "Archi-Station" allows the public to create virtual buildings using the same tools as architects and designers. *From Dwellings Forward: Work by Marilyn da Silva* is presented in conjunction with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the California College of the Arts, where da Silva has been Professor and Program Chair of the Jewelry/Metal Arts Department. After a fire claimed her home in 1993, she changed the course of her work in her *Dwelling* series, where functional hollowware evolved into small sanctuaries for grief, that then led to her *Put Out the Fire* and *Literacy* series.

A public preview for the exhibitions will be held at PAAC on September 27 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. A Palo Alto Art Center Foundation Members-only preview will precede the public preview from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Admission is free. Associated programming for the exhibitions is free (except where noted) and advance reservations are recommended. Contact 650.329.2366 for more information. Associated programming for *From Dwellings Forward* includes "A Conversation with Marilyn da Silva and Barry Katz," December 6, 7:00-8:00 p.m. In addition, "Color and Form: A Metal Workshop with Marilyn and Jack da Silva" will be offered October 20 and 21, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Fees are \$230 or \$200 for Palo Alto residents. Associated programming for *A Model Building* includes "Building Model Landscape" with Anderson Anderson Architecture," November 15, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., and "A Model Museum" with Mark Cavagnero, Mark Cavagnero Associates Architects, November 8, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Other exhibition programming includes docent-led tours, "Art Dialogues," that are offered every Saturday during the exhibitions at 2:00 p.m., and an 8-session *Art Explorers Gallery Class*, that will be offered September 22 - November 10, 2007.

- more -

"A MODEL BUILDING"

The exhibition *A Model Building* explores notions of a dream home, buildings with utopian ideals, or solutions for social habitats, and buildings that radiate anthropomorphic identities. Artworks reference the visual language of architectural models, prototypes, or plans, while forward-thinking architectural projects with a live reflex to the environment - like IwamotoScott's *JellyFish House*, or Anderson Anderson's *Chameleon House* - emerge as striking art objects. Exhibition artists include Mark Bennett, Sarah Bostwick, Anthony Discenza, Randy Dixon, Paul de Guzman, Todd Hido, Stefan Kürten, Christian Nguyen, Julia Page, A.G. Rizzoli, Lincoln Schatz, Jackie Sumell/Herman Wallace, and Joseph Zirker. Architectural firms include Mark Cavagnero Associates Architecture, IwamotoScott Architecture, and Anderson Anderson Architecture. The exhibition also includes a hands-on "Archi-Station," an interactive space where visitors can respond to the exhibition by creating their own model buildings using the same tools as architects and designers.

The exhibition offers a video presentation of *The House That Herman Built* by Jackie Sumell/Herman Wallace. Herman Wallace has been in solitary confinement at Angola State Penitentiary in Louisiana (U.S.A.) for 35 years and 5 months. Solitary confinement at Angola consists of spending 23 hours per day in a six by nine foot cell. In November 2002, after months of correspondence, Sumell asked Herman a simple question: **"What kind of house does a man who has lived for over 30 years in a six-by-nine-foot cell dream of?"** The answer is contained in an incredible exchange that has now lasted five years. Through over 300 letters, several phone calls and visits to the prison, Jackie Sumell has given voice and substance to Herman Wallace's imagination. Ms. Sumell has built a 50:1 balsa wood scale model, and a fly-through CAD model of the house seen in the video with an audio tour of Wallace's letters by Alonzo King. They will be installed in a room, which physically assumes the same dimensions as Herman Wallace's cell.

"FROM DWELLINGS FORWARD: METALWORK BY MARILYN DA SILVA"

This exhibition is presented in conjunction with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the California College of the Arts, where the artist has been Professor and Program Chair of the Jewelry/Metal Arts Department. Marilyn da Silva is a master in metalsmithing, whose intimate work reflects personal narratives and mythologies. Da Silva changed the course of her work from more traditional metalsmithing after a fire claimed the loss of her home in 1993. In her subsequent *Dwelling* series, functional hollowware soon evolved into small sanctuaries for grief. The candlesnuffers and candelabras in her later series *Put Out the Fire* contain poignant and humorous elements, where a snake takes the role of insurance adjuster and visual puns abound in their physical structure. The exhibition additionally includes work from her *Literacy* series in which books bear titles and lyrical birds act as collaborators in meaning. The artist holds a MFA from Indiana University in Bloomington, where her work is featured in the collection. Additional museum collections that have acquired her work include the Oakland Museum, Racine Art Museum in Wisconsin, and Modern Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea. The work of Marilyn da Silva has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Design Museum in Helsinki, Finland, and the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

EXHIBIT-RELATED PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

- **"Color and Form: A Metal Workshop with Marilyn and Jack da Silva"** - October 20 and 21 (Saturday & Sunday) / 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. / Fees are \$230 or \$200 for Palo Alto residents
Students will spend one day each with Marilyn and Jack. With Marilyn, non-traditional coloring techniques on various metal surfaces will be explored. With Jack, the class will explore 3-dimensional form by manipulating sheet metal with a hammer. Students will develop an understanding of hollow forms using a goldsmithing hammer and simple tools. Some metalworking experience is necessary. Enrollment is limited.
- **"A Model Museum with Mark Cavagnero"** - November 8, 2007 (Thursday) / 7:30-8:30 p.m. / Free - advance reservations recommended / Contact: 650.329.2366
Featuring: Mark Cavagnero, Mark Cavagnero Associates Architects, San Francisco
- **"Building Model Landscape"** - November 15, 2007 (Thursday) / 7:30-8:30 p.m. / Free - advance reservations recommended / Contact: 650.329.2366
Featuring: Peter C.O. Anderson and Mark Anderson, Anderson Anderson Architecture, San Francisco and Seattle.
- **"A Conversation with Marilyn da Silva and Barry Katz"** - December 6, 2007 (Thursday) / 7:00- 8:00 p.m. / Free - advance reservations recommended / Contact: 650.329.2366
Historian Barry Katz teaches at the California College of the Arts and Stanford University. A dessert reception follows the program, 8:00- 8:30 PM in the PAAC studios in honor of Marilyn da Silva.
- **Docent-led Tours "Art Dialogues"** - Every Saturday / 2:00 p.m. / Free
ART DIALOGUES are free docent-led tours designed for adults presented at the Palo Alto Art Center. Docents are specially trained to illuminate the content and aesthetics of the images and objects on display. Tours last 30 to 45 minutes. "Private" and "family" tours (geared for teens and adults), may be arranged for after 2 pm. For more information, please call 650.329.2370 or 650.329.2366.
- **Art Explorers Gallery Class - New!** - Saturday, 9/22-11/10/2007 (8 classes) / 10:15-11:15am / Fees are \$114 or \$99 for Palo Alto residents / Ages: 6-8 / Instructor: Anja Blum
Explore PAAC's ever-changing exhibitions in this new gallery class. Students will explore the current exhibition in-depth through observation, investigation, and hands-on activities. Spend time in the galleries, in the studio, and on-the-go. Art Explorers receive an Art Explorer backpack filled with colorful and fun art supplies!

ABOUT THE PALO ALTO ART CENTER

The Palo Alto Art Center (founded 1971) is a nationally acclaimed, regional visual art center whose exhibition program focuses on documenting - and celebrating - the art and artists of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Center's mission is to foster creative process and thought by forging a greater appreciation and understanding of the visual arts through exhibitions, studio experiences, and related educational programs. The Palo Alto Art Center, Division of Arts and Culture, City of Palo Alto, is funded in part by support from the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and the Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council. The Center is open to the public without charge from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 1:00-5:00 p.m. Sunday; and 7:00-10:00 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. The Center is located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303. For further information: Phone: 650.329.2366 / Email: artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org / Website: www.cityofpaloalto.org.