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**THE DJERASSI RESIDENT ARTISTS PROGRAM & THE PALO ALTO ART CENTER
PRESENT...**

**A Slide Talk with Nigerian Environmental Artist,
BRIGHT UGOCHUKWU EKE**

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2007, 7:00 pm
At the Palo Alto Art Center
~ Free Admission ~

Palo Alto, Calif., June 22, 2007 - Nigerian environmental artist Bright Ugochukwu Eke, winner of the first 2006 Dakar Biennial Djerassi Residency Prize, will present a slide talk about his work on Thursday, July 12, 2007, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium at the Palo Alto Art Center; admission is free. Space is limited and advance reservations are recommended; please call 650.329.2366. Co-presented by the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, based in Woodside, CA, and the Palo Alto Art Center, Eke's work addresses the dire effects of industrialization and the abuses and politics of water usage in Africa. Eke will also discuss his work-in-progress, "The Chief's Garbage Chair," which he plans to create while in residence from June 26 through July 31, 2007 at the Djerassi Program's 580-acre Santa Cruz Mountain ranch property.

Bright Ugochukwu Eke was selected through the Djerassi Program's affiliation with Res Artis, the worldwide network of artist communities (www.resartis.org). Among other international artist communities, the Djerassi Program offered a residency as a prize to an African artist chosen to participate in the 2006 Dakar Biennial, a pan-African art exhibition, held in Senegal in May 2006 (www.dakart.org). Bright was awarded the Djerassi Program Residency Prize by an international panel of art professionals.

Born in Nigeria in 1976, Eke received BA and MFA degrees in Fine Arts from the University of Nigeria. Early in his career, the direction of Eke's work was inspired by the physical pain of his exposure to acid rain. He created an installation (titled "Acid Rain") that simulated the danger that lurks in a simple raindrop. In another work, "Shields," Eke used empty drinking water sacks to fashion plastic raincoats and umbrellas to protect wearers from acid rain. Ironically, the sacks of clean water are sold in response to the lack of clean drinking water due to rampant pollution. Once discarded, the sacks become litter that contributes to the horrendous pollution cycle. In these and other works, Eke highlights the dire effects of industrialization, especially in developing countries, where much of the natural environment has been destroyed.

ABOUT THE DJERASSI RESIDENT ARTISTS PROGRAM

Now in its 28th year, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program is regarded as one of the eminent artist residency communities in the United States. The Program's mission is to support and enhance the creativity of artists by providing uninterrupted time for work, reflection, and collegial interaction in a setting of great natural beauty, and to preserve the land on which the Program is situated. The Djerassi Resident Artists Program is a nonprofit organization that receives support from the James Irvine Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Alliance of Artist Communities, and numerous other private foundations and individual donors. The Djerassi Resident Artists Program is located at 2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside, CA 94062. Phone: 650.747.1250 / Fax: 650.747.0105 / Email: drap@djerassi.org / Website: www.djerassi.org

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(s): www.cityofpaloalto.org and www.paacf.org.

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