

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Sarah L. Stifler, Hammer Communications, 310-443-7056, [sstifler@hammer.ucla.edu](mailto:sstifler@hammer.ucla.edu)

### The Hammer and LAXART join forces to organize the first Los Angeles Biennial

Los Angeles - The Hammer Museum and LAXART are pleased to announce a formal programmatic affiliation centered on the development and organization of the **Los Angeles Biennial** in 2012. The Biennial will follow the tradition of the Hammer Invitational exhibitions which take place every two years and have included *Snapshot* (2001), *International Paper* (2003), *Thing* (2005), *Eden's Edge* (2007), *Nine Lives* (2009) as well as the upcoming *All of this and nothing* (winter 2011). Unlike the Invitationals, however, the Los Angeles Biennial will focus exclusively on artists from the LA region with an emphasis on emerging artists. This Biennial exhibition will be large in scale—mounted at the Hammer and LAXART as well as additional sites throughout the city—and will leverage LAXART's experience with public art projects.

The Biennial is a programmatic collaboration which comes after more than a year of discussions between the two organizations and on the heels of smaller initiatives between the Hammer and LAXART such as *Superclogger* – a project by artist **Joel Kyack**. In 2011 the Hammer and LAXART will partner with LA-based artist **Shannon Ebner**. Ebner will have installations at both the Hammer, as a Hammer Project, and LAXART and will also create an installation of public art. A team of curators from both institutions including Hammer Senior Curator **Anne Ellegood**, Hammer Curator **Ali Subotnick**, LAXART Director **Lauri Firstenberg**, LAXART Assistant Director and Curator of Public Art **Cesar Garcia**, and LAXART Curator **Malik Gaines** will work together on this city-wide initiative, which will also include public art projects. A taskforce of individuals from across many departments of both organizations will work together to negotiate the complexities of such a large exhibition.

"We are extremely happy to announce this exciting partnership. I have always had enormous respect for LAXART and for Lauri's ambitious program," remarks Hammer Director Ann Philbin. "Working together allows us to spread out into the community and better serve artists who are living and working in LA. We feel a kindred spirit with LAXART in their support of LA artists— their priorities are very much in line with our own."

Founded by Lauri Firstenberg in 2005, LAXART is an independent, non-profit art space in Culver City which has made important contributions to LA's art scene by focusing its program on commissioning new work by emerging artists and organizing an array of public art initiatives. The Hammer has a long tradition of showing and supporting LA artists – for the past decade the internationally acclaimed Hammer Projects series has featured emerging artists from the city, and the Hammer Invitational exhibitions have always focused heavily on work being produced in Los Angeles as well.

"What a gift for LAXART to collaborate with the Hammer under Annie's dynamic leadership and to work with their curatorial team which includes some of our most esteemed colleagues in the country let alone the city," says Lauri Firstenberg, founder and director of LAXART. "The Hammer's sustained dedication to LA's arts community has established a unique trust, base, and support among artists. Together we will create various new and exciting platforms and opportunities for artists in the region."

This fall the Hammer and LAXART will work out the organizational details and structure of the partnership and programmatic work on the Biennial and its related programs will begin in early 2011. The Hammer and LAXART will also begin working on smaller-scale collaborations that may include curatorial and public programming partnerships.

## **ABOUT LAXART**

Celebrating its 5th Anniversary in 2010, LAXART is a leading independent nonprofit contemporary art space in Los Angeles, committed to the production of experimental exhibitions and public art initiatives. Responding to Los Angeles' cultural climate, LAXART produces and presents new work for all audiences and offers the public access to the next generation of artists and curators. LAXART supports challenging work, reflecting the diversity of the city and stimulates conversations on contemporary art in Los Angeles, fostering dynamic relationships between art, artists and their audiences. LAXART has produced and commissioned over 100 projects in five years.

## **LAXART INFORMATION**

For current exhibition and event information, please call **310-559-0166** or visit **[www.laxart.org](http://www.laxart.org)**.

**Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 11am – 6pm.

**Location:** LAXART is located at 2640 S. La Cienega Boulevard.

## **ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM**

The Hammer Museum, a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

The museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is international in scope with a focus on work by artists from Southern California. The museum also houses the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present; and oversees the management of the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse range of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. The Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater houses these widely acclaimed public programs and is the new home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinematheque.

## **HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION**

For current program and exhibition information call **310-443-7000** or visit **[www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu)**.

**Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 11am – 7pm; Thursday, 11am – 9 pm; Sunday, 11am – 5 pm; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Admission:** \$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and UCLA Alumni Association members; free for Museum members, students with identification, UCLA faculty/staff, and visitors 17 and under. The Museum is free for everyone on Thursdays.

**Location/Parking:** The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, at Westwood Boulevard. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation.

**Hammer Museum Tours:** For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.