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**CALENDAR / ART**

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## **18th Street Arts Center Launches Its 2009 Exhibition Season and Awards Four Artist Fellowships**

Santa Monica, CA – 18th Street Arts Center announces “*Almost Utopia: (Los Angeles 2019)*” its 2009 season of exhibitions and special projects focusing on myriad social and institutional possibilities before us, the imperfect beauty in art and architecture around us, the personality and evolutionary stages of various cults and other oddities we often ignore, and the atmosphere of our civic cultural institutions in 2019.

18<sup>th</sup> Street Artistic Director Clayton Campbell is pleased to announce the commissioning of four curators who will develop the projects and exhibits associated with the annual theme, *Almost Utopia: Los Angeles 2019*. They are Ichiro Irie, artist and publisher of Rim Magazine; Ciara Ennis, Director of the Nichols Gallery, Pitzer College; Pilar Tompkins, Curator at the Claremont Museum of Art; and Robert Sain, independent curator and former Director of LACMA Lab.

Campbell is also pleased to announce four artist fellowship awards to visual artists Marcos Novak, Nuttaphol Ma, Sandra de la Loza, and Andrea Bowers. Each artist receives a three-month residency at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and a \$2500 award for the development of an original work for *Almost Utopia*.

Campbell, in describing *Almost Utopia: (Los Angeles 2019)* says, “I am asking the curators and artist fellows to look forward a mere ten years with optimism and to find the desire to expand our worldview. With the election of a new administration we are in a proactive era, yet remain mindful of the challenges. In a new economic reality and rapidly evolving political and social infra-structure, Los Angeles is changing at record speed.”

“Shangri L.A.” (Ichiro Irie, curator with Marcos Novak, Artist Fellow) will open February 7; “Cults, Collectives, and Cocooning” (Ciara Ennis, curator with Nuttaphol Ma, Artist Fellow) will open May 2; “Post American LA” (Pilar Tompkins, curator with Sandra de la Loza, Artist Fellow) will open August 1; and “Wanted: Alive” (Robert Sain, curator with Andrea Bowers, Artist Fellow) will open on October 24. Throughout the season, artists and curators will forecast projections of Los Angeles ten years from now, and consider how they connect and possibly transcend the ideals we may have for 2019. The exhibitions will be reflective of a diversity of opinions through the artist’s work and ideas and public actions.

18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center programs are generously funded by the City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the James Irvine Foundation, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Getty Foundation.

***18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center 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 December 31, 2009 -**