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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**CALENDAR / ART**

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## **LA 2019: Cults, Collectives, & Cocooning**

May 2 – June 26, 2009

**Opening Reception May 2, 2009 6:00 – 10:00pm**

Santa Monica, CA – On May 2nd, 18th Street continues its 2009 exhibition season with LA 2019: CULTS, COLLECTIVES & COCOONING, **curated by Ciara Ennis** for our main gallery and project room. Artists include **Cathy Akers, Heather Cantrell, Fallen Fruit, Olga Koumoundouros, Jason Middlebrook, Bede Murphy with Unarius, Machine Project with Jim Fetterly, William Ransom, Stephanie Smith (Wanna Start A Commune?), and Joel Tauber.**

**Nuttaphol Ma, our 2009 Artist Fellow**, will transform part of the main gallery into a lemongrass tearoom made from the lemongrass planted in and around 18 Street Art Center.

Gallery hours are Monday – Friday 10am-6pm. 18th Street Arts Center is located at 1639 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica. For further information and images please visit our pressroom/gallery at [www.18thstreet.org/pressroom.html](http://www.18thstreet.org/pressroom.html).

## **SPEAKEASIES AND SPACEMEN CONVERGE IN NEW EXHIBITION**

Despite worldwide financial panic, ecological disasters and general global malaise, the exhibition LA 2019: CULTS, COLLECTIVES & COCOONING conjures a surprisingly positive image of what Los Angeles might be in the near future. It suggests a destiny of collaborative and community based ventures that focus on the group rather than the individual experience. Featuring objects, installations, photography, drawing and video works by emerging and established artists the exhibition explores three related themes: real and fictional intentional communities, the power of the collective versus the individual, and sustainable solutions for future living.

The artworks include **William Ransom's** suspended rowboat and his 50-foot hayfork that arcs through the gallery. **Olga Koumoundouros'** shelter is a basic lean-to structure but composed of bread in the shape of human extremities, unifying the body and shelter into one. Artist **Jason Middlebrook** will draw a mural of the islands of Los Angeles that will be formed from the high ground neighborhoods when global warming raises the seas.

The **Fallen Fruit** collective's participatory installation will feature shelves filled with fruit vodkas distilled from local urban produce and will be available for tasting. In the tradition of Johnny Appleseed, artist **Joel Tauber** maps the locations of seedlings he has planted from rescued cuttings of a forlorn sycamore tree located in the Rose Bowl parking lot, while various types of communes—behavioral, experimental, and guru-driven—are documented in the photographs of **Cathy Akers**. The fictional orphans of Charles Manson are explored in the black and white photos of **Heather Cantrell** and Ecoshack architect, **Stephanie Smith**, will work with the 18th Street resident artist

community to build a cooperative settlement on the grounds of the Art Center. **Machine Project** with Jim **Fetterly** will concoct a visual archive of Machine Project's history and with a look toward the stars, **Bede Murphy** will, with members of the Unarius Academy, create a research center of extraterrestrial solutions to our earthly woes.

### **About the Curator**

Ciara Ennis (M.A., Royal College of Art, London, UK) is the Director/Curator of Pitzer Art Galleries at Pitzer College and was the Curator of Exhibitions, UCR/California Museum of Photography, particularly of *Still, Things Fall From the Sky* (2005), *Ruby Satellite* (2006), and *Eloi: Stumbling Towards Paradise* (2007). Ennis moved from London to Los Angeles where she was Project Director for *Public Offerings*, an international survey of contemporary art, at MOCA, Los Angeles, 2001. From there she became Associate Curator at the Santa Monica Museum of Art, where she initiated the Project Room and programmed a series of experimental exhibitions with such artists as Urs Fischer, Simon Leung, Mark Leckey, Johan Grimonprez, and Eduardo Sarabia. Ennis has been Director of Pitzer Art Galleries for the past 18 months, during that time she has curated a number of exhibitions including: *Antarctica: Joyce Campbell, Anne Noble, Connie Samaras*; *SPELL: Sandeep Mukherjee*; and most recently *Narrowcast: Reframing Global Video 1986/2008*, which was co-curated with Ming-Yuen S. Ma.

### **About 18th Street Arts Center**

18th Street annually sets a theme for its exhibitions, which acts as a unifying principle for the curators and artists working with the center. The theme for 2009 is *Almost Utopia: Los Angeles in 2019*. 18<sup>th</sup> Street Artistic Director Clayton Campbell says "I am asking the curators and artists involved with *Almost Utopia* to look forward a mere ten years with optimism. And, to find the desire to expand our worldview through the art making and 'outside the box' ideas of our guest artists. With the election of a new administration we are in a proactive era, yet remain mindful of the challenges in accomplishing reform and improvements in quality of life issues. In a new economic reality and rapidly evolving political and social infrastructure in California, Los Angeles is changing at record speed in ways yet to be fully understood. *Almost Utopia* may provide some clues to the direction already underway."

18th 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, California Community Foundation, and the Getty Foundation.

***18th Street Arts Center's 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 June 26, 2009-**