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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CALENDAR / ART

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A Night of Poetry, Music and Art
18th Street Presents our Spring Art Night

Santa Monica, Ca- On Saturday, May 1, 2010 18th Street Arts Center celebrates its quarterly art festival featuring two exhibition opening receptions, *Highways Performance Space's* highly-anticipated Poetry Slam Contest and a sophisticated video and sound exhibition by *V.I.C.C. Entertainment*. Art Night takes place from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the 18th Street Arts Center, located at 1639 18th Street, Santa Monica, north of Olympic Boulevard.

The event also features our gallery openings, art installations, open-artists studios, and an opportunity for visitors to be exposed to other art and social organizations referred to as the "18th Street Connect." Food will be available for purchase and free drinks will be provided by Izze Sparkling Juice, Pama Pomegranate Liqueur, Hpnotiq, and LunaAzul Tequila.

Main Gallery:

"Prep Materials"

Carla Herrera-Pratts' exhibition, "Prep Materials" explores the role creative processes play in pairing standardized education and democracy, by looking closely at the history, design and fabrication of the first standardized test-scoring machines. Her installation consists of a slide projection, a wall drawing, a series of photographs and prints from scanned deriving from three different archives

Project Room:

"Fine Art, (626) 394-3963"

Matthias Merkel Hess' presents a project that investigates what the public wants from artists while also promoting his own nascent career as an artist. Aligning his status as a young artist with that of the fly-by-night businesses usually advertised on telephone poles, the signs are an invitation to the public to call him at his personal number to discuss art or create an art piece based upon the client's choice.

Pasillos I (building 1629):

In celebration of the LA Opera's Spring 2010 production of Richard Wagner's 'The Ring Cycle', 18th Street will present "Digital Wagner", a real time interpretation of the iconic themes and social relevancy in The Ring Cycle. Artist Clayton Campbell's prints and projections feature a cast of contemporary characters who bring a new spin to an old story about the nature of power, love, loss, treachery, and redemption.

18th Street Connect:

Art night guests can learn about the services that exist from other organizations in the greater Los Angeles and Santa Monica area. Participating Organizations include: Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division, Pico Family Youth Center, PS Arts, and Y.W.C.A. This year's 18th Street Connect will also consist of a community of artisans whose handcrafted creations will be available to the public for purchase.

Open Studios

The studios of 18th Street Artists in residence are open to the public. Participating artists include: Dan Kwong, Karl Doerr-Attaway, Lita Albuquerque, Luciana Abait, Henrietta Bouwers, John Malpede, Arzu Arda Kosar and David McDonald

For more information about Art Night and the exhibition openings visit <http://www.18thstreet.org> or go to our [facebook](#) page. Art Night is sponsored in part by the cultural funding initiatives of the City of Santa Monica, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, the James Irvine Foundation, the California Community Foundation, The Getty Foundation, Crossroads School of Arts and Sciences, IZZE, and Pama Pomegranate Liqueur.

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.