

For immediate release

## ***Zone 5 in the City: Art Sustaining Nature***

April 12 – May 10, 2008; presented by the Arroyo Arts Collective in collaboration with the Audubon Center at Debs Park

**Ten installations, jurored by Helen Lessick and James Rojas, addressing sustainability by Artists formerly Known as Women, Otis Bardwell, Libby Gerber, Rebeca Guerrero, Barbara Koziel-Gawronski, Nancy Kyes, Kelly Nicholson and Jenna Robinson, Chad Rea, Jane Tsong, and Julie Zemel with the assistance of students from the Arroyo Seco Academy of Franklin High School are sited throughout the Audubon Center at Debs Park bounded by Griffin Avenue, Scrub Jay Trail and the Butterfly Loop.**

The Arroyo Arts Collective's site-specific temporary installation exhibition, *Zone 5 in the City*, refers to permaculture's classification of "Zone 5" as the wilderness zone from which we learn the important lesson of working with nature not against it. *Zone 5 in the City* is a project that brings professional artists together with Franklin High School students to explore the issue of sustainability through the construction of site-specific installations on the grounds of the Audubon Center at Debs Park.

The Audubon Center is located on one of the last parcels of open space in Los Angeles. Comprising 282 acres of urban wilderness, it contains California walnut woodland and coastal scrub habitats. Located in a wildlife corridor for migratory birds, the park is a haven for 138 species of birds. The Audubon's building was designed using the principles of sustainability. The design focuses on a number of key environmental issues that are at the heart of sustainable building, including renewable energy sources, water conservation, recycled building materials, and native landscaping.

**Reception: April 12, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., free and open to the public**

**Exhibition Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., free**

**Location: Audubon Center at Debs Park, 4700 North Griffin Avenue, Los Angeles, 90031, (323) 221-2255**

**Saturday, April 26, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Meet at the Audubon Center.

The Arroyo Arts collective will be sponsoring a Nature Walk with **Christopher Nyerges**, well-known author and urban naturalist, who will be identifying edible and medicinal plants throughout Debs Park. This event is free and open to the public.

### **About the Installations:**

#### **Artists Formerly Known as Women with Daniel Rodriguez and Eva Torres**

*Framing the Loop* addresses the local terrain, the ecosystem and the effects of water consumption on the local landscape. By literally framing sites along the Butterfly Loop Trail, the viewer's gaze will be directed to specific elements in the landscape, and by the use of cell phones, the viewer will hear information that will augment the experience of the environment.

#### **Otis Bardwell with Carlos Borja**

*Plastic Hut*: a life-sized hut modeled after dwellings made by Tongva Nations, indigenous groups of Southern California. The structural framework is built from flexible plastic tubing instead of sticks, lashed together with plastic twine instead of leather or bark, and thatched over with recycled plastic bags in lieu of grass.

#### **Libby L. Gerber with Porchea Tretola**

*Natura Urbana* acknowledges the closeness of the impending city, but does not allow it to penetrate the small parcel of wilderness. Only the implication of man-made objects find their way into the park via 15 imprinted earthen "artifacts". The objects cast in the earth pieces are collected in the urban areas surrounding Debs Park. The images of these "found" urban objects will fade once rain, extreme heat, and growing plants overtake the forms. Their man-made features will slowly disintegrate and blend back into the soil from which they were made.

#### **Rebeca Guerrero and Gabriel Reyna with Tiffany Garibay and Michelle Leon**

*The Arch of Composting* is a sculptural cycle of the transformation of plants to consumer goods to compost.

#### **Barbara Koziel-Gawronski with April Baily and Karina Momreal**

*Commemorating the Passenger Pigeon* is made to commemorate a bird which once was the most common bird in the USA and is now extinct. The project consists of a group of small, printed flags attached to sticks, and a stone with an inscription.

**Nancy Kyes with Gustavo Orduna**

*Sphere* is an installation that suggests oneness, in which the continual diversity we experience arises. Branches found lying on the ground are woven together, in a seemingly random way, to build a larger, recognizable pattern.

**Kelly Nicholson and Jenna Robinson with Alex Cortes, Monica Montoya, and Alex Saravia**

*Stepping off the Path: Resting Places in Zone 5* will address issues of sustainability within the Audubon Center at Debs Park through the creation of a site-determined installation that focuses on connecting to nature through the creation of resting places in Zone 5. We will create sanctuaries made of natural materials found on site for people to sit, meditate, and connect with their surroundings on a visceral level. Our aim is to build comfortable seats where people will want to linger, connect with and understand the essence of the place, rather than just pass through on a footpath.

**Chad Rea and Scot Rea/ Ecopop with Pablo Sotelo**

*Trading Spaces*: With elements of their former life still intact, these uniquely designed birdhouses constructed from discarded tradeshow displays are a constant reminder of consumerism, waste management, and their effects on our ecosystem.

**Jane Tsong with Moises Hernandez and Anthony Zapata**

*The Water Cycle Speaks*: Our team will be designing graphics to be mounted on Debs' water fountains and faucets. These graphics will express the life cycle of the water we use from rain to the ocean.

**Julie Zemel with Angie Urbina**

*Car Park*: a site-specific native plant garden within and around a wrecked car with interpretive signage. I propose to reuse this site of decay by filling it with local soil and then creating a native plant garden by transplanting samples of the park's flowering plants.

**About the Arroyo Arts Collective**

The **Arroyo Arts Collective** was established in 1989 as a community organization of artists, writers and performers who live and work in Northeast Los Angeles. As a grassroots arts organization, it has established a record of service to northeast Los Angeles through the operation and mounting exhibitions at its Acorn Gallery, bringing art educational opportunities to Franklin High School students, challenging the boundaries of art by mounting installation focused exhibitions in unlikely spaces and for 15 years producing the annual fall **Discovery Tour** of artists' studios and homes in the area.

**About the Audubon Center at Debs Park**

Developing an urban, place based conservation model that focuses on the Arroyo Seco, connecting our effort with the revitalization of the Los Angeles River and the broader watershed. We take a "whole communities" approach to our work, striving to ensure our programming reflects the intersection of the communities and cultures in our target area, their fundamental needs and relevant environmental issues.

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