

Enriching Lives



Contacts:

Julie Silliman, Dir. of Civic Arts, L.A. County Arts Commission, 213 974-8584, jsilliman@lacountyarts.org

or

Linda Chiavaroli, Dir. of Communications, L.A. County Arts Commission, 323 871-4554.

lchiavaroli@lacountyarts.org

or

James M. Bolden, Press Deputy, Second Supervisorial District, (213) 974-2222,

jbalden@bos.lacounty.gov

A photo of Anne Marie Karlsen is available by request from Linda Chiavaroli.

For Release December 4, 2006

Artist Selected for Lawndale Library Civic Art Project

Los Angeles-based artist **Anne Marie Karlsen** has been commissioned by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's Civic Art Program to create permanent artwork for the new Lawndale Library, due to be constructed in 2008. A panel of community members, an artist and member of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and representatives of Los Angeles County's Public Library and Department of Public Works awarded \$71,000 to Karlsen for the project.

The new 17,000 sq. ft. library will serve the city of Lawndale, located in the South Bay area of Los Angeles County, just east of the 405 and south of the 110 freeways. One of the last cities to incorporate within the County (in 1959), Lawndale is a culturally mixed residential community of about 32,000. Gruen Associates of Los Angeles designed the facility, which will be located adjacent to the Lawndale City Hall. The new library will include an adult library and reading facilities, adult Hispanic and Chinese language collections, a youth homework center and a children's storytelling area.

"We look forward to Anne Marie Karlsen's contribution to this important new addition to the Lawndale landscape," said 2nd District Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke. "A library is a place for discovery and she will help create an environment that reflects imagination and creativity."

Karlsen will collaborate with Gruen Associates to create an artwork that will benefit both the library and Lawndale's Civic Center as a whole. Her primary mediums are glass and ceramic tile, with imagery that is often derived from her own photographs of the surrounding landscape and sites.

Anne Marie Karlsen, who lives in the Westchester area of Los Angeles, earned her MFA from the University of Wisconsin, and has been teaching art in southern California since 1979 at UCLA, and currently at Santa Monica College. Since 1990 she has been commissioned for numerous public projects throughout the country, including the FBI Headquarters in Chicago; Paseo Colorado Development, Pasadena; North Hollywood Red Line station; and Trailside

Elementary School in Anchorage, Alaska. Her work is represented in many museums throughout California and the U.S., and internationally in the Kulturverwaltung Stadt Salzburg, Austria.

The selection panel included Lawndale City Council members Virginia Rhodes and Robert Pullen-Miles; County Librarian Margaret Todd; architect Larry Schlossberg of Gruen Architects; Phoebe Beasley, Los Angeles County Arts Commissioner and artist; and Arts Commission project managers Rebecca Banyas and Karen Rapp.

In accordance with the Civic Art Policy adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 2004, one percent of the library's construction costs are allocated for the incorporation of civic art. The Los Angeles County Art Commission's Civic Art Program administers all aspects of the civic art allocation in concert with County constituents and community stakeholders.

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to coordinating the Civic Art program, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2006-2007 President of the Arts Commission is Marjorie Lyte.