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MEDIAALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORECAST Public Artworks Announces 2007 Grant Awards

St. Paul, Minn. ...FORECAST Public Artworks, the 29-year-old independent public art agency, proudly announces its 17th round of grants to Minnesota artists for exploration of public art. The program, Public Art Affairs, funded by Jerome Foundation, annually supports emerging and early career visual artists pursuing the public realm as a venue for creative expression. Funding in three categories was awarded to the following:

Category 1: Research and Development Grants (\$1,000)

Craig Campbell is taking his small-scale sculpture work into a larger environment within the public realm. *Light Road*, his proposed project, will reveal a progression of light forms to car travelers as they travel along Highway 52 from the southern Twin Cities to Rochester.

Mayumi Amada will research sites for her project, *Illuminating an Ice Field at Night*. She intends to bring her theme of the doily image into the public realm, by decorating a frozen lake or skating rink with "doily-like patterns that are created by many candle lanterns or candles protected by simple structures made with ice or snow."

Mickey Smith will explore new ways to present her new project, *Unaccompanied Minor*, in the public realm. This project explores the physical and emotional transition of children of divorce as they independently navigate between homes. Specifically, Mickey will research processes for presenting large-scale photographs as public art and develop a short list of transit sites to approach regarding installation.

David DeBlieck will research and develop public dance performances at selected sites in St. Cloud. He plans to engage in community dialogue and planning, in order to "examine how the creation of dance at sites frequently visited by the community addresses this need by utilizing public places as a bridge between innovative artistic expression and the gathering of a community."

Category 2: Public Project Grants (\$4,500)

Michael J. Allen will explore the camera's potential to "honor the spirit of the homeless as they come to terms with their environment and circumstances." His project will be a series of triptychs, featuring photographic portraits of people experiencing homelessness, their panhandling signs, and alternate panhandling signs that will be designed by local graphic artists. Through the project, Michael hopes to dispel misunderstanding and fear in society in a non-threatening and imaginative manner.

Olive Bieringa will work with Otto Ramstad in the BodyCartography Project to develop a site-specific version of Holiday House in and around her house in Powderhorn, incorporating performance, dance, music, and to-scale video projections. The project will examine time, impermanence, and the embodiment of space, and will investigate the theme of reversing inside and outside, both in terms of space, objects, and behavior.

Barbara Keith will install a stained glass mosaic on the window panels at St. Paul's Rice Street Branch Library. She will conduct research in regards to community demographics and traditional tapestry patterns of the community's cultures, and "create an ethnic 'tapestry' out of glass, reflecting the cultural makeup of the community."

Marcus Young, a multidisciplinary conceptual artist, will work with Shen Pei, Mary Ellen Childs, and Cody Anderson to bring *Wishes for the Sky*, a large-scale, nature-oriented public arts event, to St. Paul on Earth Day. The project, involving the flying of 1000 kites, and symbolizing 1000 sets of wishes, aims to remind people “of the interdependence of life within ecological and social systems, of the connection between a hopeful mind and a clean earth, and ultimately of harmony and peace for our world.”

Category 3: University Avenue Commission (\$9,000)

Scott Murphy, a fine artist who once worked as a billboard painter, will create an exterior mural on the Major Tire Building at 1831 University Avenue. Inspired by Art Deco transportation posters, the mural will address the history of transportation on the avenue, anticipating the advent of Light Rail Transit.

FORECAST Public Artworks is a St. Paul-based nonprofit whose mission is to strengthen and advance the field of public art locally, regionally and nationally by expanding participation, supporting artists, informing audiences and assisting communities. FORECAST's three primary programs include Public Art Affairs, *Public Art Review* and Public Art Services.

More information about FORECAST Public Artworks and its Public Art Affairs grant program is available by calling 651-641-1128, or sending an email to info@forecastart.org. Further details are at www.forecastart.org.

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