

Enriching Lives



Civic Art

PRESS RELEASE

Press contacts (not for publication):

Greg Esser, Director of Civic Art, Los Angeles County Arts Commission,
(213).202-5858, gesser@arts.lacounty.gov

Linda Chiavaroli, Director of Communications, Los Angeles County Arts Commission
Office (213) 202-5935, mobile (323) 810-9240, lchiavaroli@arts.lacounty.gov

MEDIA PLEASE NOTE: More information may be found at
<http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart/projectdetails/id/24>

For release September 29, 2010

“FRONTIER” AT NEW ACTON-AGUA DULCE LIBRARY WAS INSPIRED BY COMMUNITY’S PIONEER ROOTS

Porcelain art was created by national award-winning artist Anne Marie Karlsen

Los Angeles based artist Anne Marie Karlsen is known for developing site-specific public works that illuminate the communities they inhabit. Karlsen’s 2007 project for the Lawndale Public Library was named one of the best public art projects in the United States by Americans for the Arts. Her most recent public work, “Frontier,” displayed on the wall of the new Acton-Agua Dulce Christopher Colombo Breviadoro Library in Acton, California, draws on the roots of the area. “Frontier” is a series of large porcelain enamel discs with bold patterns that blend the area’s historical background with contemporary issues.

Similar to Karlsen’s glass wall at Lawndale, the discs’ colorful patterns appear abstract at first glance; however, a closer look reveals fragments of the community’s local history. As Karlsen explains, the circular discs inspired by old western style wagon wheels “incorporate photographs of the area’s history and reconfigures these images.” The discs, although stationary, appear to spin across the wall as if moving into the future.

The repeated circular motif of the artwork frames a quote on the wall by Charles Kettering: “Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier.” Karlsen comments, “The artwork and the

quotation refer to the pioneer roots of the community. The quotation connects the frontier spirit of the community with the open frontier of knowledge.”

Acton was established in the late 1880s as a rough-and-tumble mining town after a new railroad tract was constructed in the area. The library is named after the Brevidoro Family, long time residents of the area who donated the land for the new building.

The 11,000 square foot public library on Crown Valley Road in Acton is part of the County of Los Angeles Public Library. The building features stunning mountain views from the north side and a creek that runs directly below the library. The scenic landscape is reflected in the design and photography of Karlsen’s discs. The library also includes reading and storytelling areas, circulation and information desks, a children’s area, computer stations and meeting and study rooms.

Anne Marie Karlsen earned her MFA from the University of Wisconsin and has been teaching art in southern California since 1979, currently at Santa Monica College. Since 1990 she has been commissioned for numerous public projects across the country. Her work on the North Hollywood Red Line metro station was included in Art in America’s Best Public Art of 2001 article. Her studio work has been featured in over 100 exhibitions around the United States and Europe, and can be found in the permanent collection of museums throughout the United States.

The artwork was commissioned under Los Angeles County’s Civic Art Program, administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Rebecca Banyas and Rebecca Ansert of the Arts Commission were project managers for “Frontier.” Under the Civic Art Program, one percent of construction costs of all County capital projects over \$500,000 is set aside for the incorporation of civic art.

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 overseeing the County’s Civic Art Program for capital projects, 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 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually; programs the John Anson Ford Theatres; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation; 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 70 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2010-11 President of the Arts Commission is Ronald D. Rosen. For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit: <http://lacountyarts.org/page/pubnewspress>

9/29/10