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SYMPOSIUM C6 DEBUTS APRIL 26-28, 2007 *International Forum in Chicago to Discuss “The Art World Is Flat: Globalism – Crisis and Opportunity”*

Chicago, IL, February 2006 – The inaugural, by-invitation **Symposium C6**, entitled *The Art World Is Flat: Globalism—Crisis and Opportunity*, takes place April 26 – 28, 2007 at the Pritzker Pavilion designed by Frank Gehry in Chicago’s Millennium Park.

Symposium C6 Highlights: Keynote speech by world-renowned theatre director **Peter Sellars**; the premiere Chicago screening of *Strange Culture*, **Lynn Hershman Leeson’s** film, said at this year’s Sundance Film Festival to be a “brilliant statement on artistic freedom and the dangers it faces”; and *Let Me Down Easy*, a one-woman performance by award-winning playwright and actress **Anna Deavere Smith**.

Symposium C6 Asks:

- *What does art look like now?* -- Digital media, public interventions, international collaborations, mobile architecture, robotics, genetics
- *With whom are artists working?* -- Climatologists, biologists, politicians, and you
- *Where is the work?* - The High Arctic, on a barge down the Danube, in the virtual global commons, in remote villages and exploding mega cities, in the smog filled atmosphere above the US
- *Why does it matter?* -- Art and artists confronting global capitalism, ecological crisis, political and cultural repression can make a difference

“Unlike any other gathering in the art world, Symposium C6 is bringing together people not just from the arts, but from a variety of disciplines and practices who can generate new ideas, collaborations and responses(to the challenges we face,” said Lynne Sowder, one of the organizers of Symposium C6. “We hope Symposium C6 helps point the way toward new, vital, engaged cultural practices.”

Symposium C6 Day-by-Day Highlights

Each days’ issues are interrelated, and will focus on presenters working across disciplines. Topics and speakers will include:

New Capital(s): Hegemony and Resistance in the Global Cultural Economy, will look at new models of cultural activism, production and distribution with presenters including:

- Adventurous, fourth-generation Thyssen-Bornemisza art collector, patron and Chairman of the T-B A21 Foundation **Francesca von Habsburg**, whose recent commissions include Olafur Eliasson’s installation *Your Black Horizon* in the pavilion designed by David Adjaye on the Island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni, Venice.

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- **Stanley Hainsworth**, Vice-President Global Creative for Starbucks Coffee Company, whose new entertainment initiative distributes books, music and movies at Starbuck's shops, in their salons and on the Web.

No Borders Here? Cultural Hybrids, Nomads and Refugees will explore the relationships between cultural practice and international nomadism, ubiquitous technology and new political alliances, with presenters including:

- **Lu Jie**, curator of the Long March Project, an ongoing series of exhibits, performances, discourses and workshops along the route of Mao Zedong's six thousand mile journey designed to "interrogate Chinese visual culture and revolutionary memory."
- Artist, pilot, and filmmaker **Simone Aaberg Kærn** whose flight from Denmark to Afghanistan in a small 1961 Piper Colt plane was documented in *Flying to Kabul*. Kærn's award-winning films also include *Smiling In a War Zone* and *Sisters in the Sky*.

Green World: Art for a Sustainable Ecological Consciousness will examine how cultural practices are shaping and responding to a global ecological crisis, with scientists, technologists, architects and artists.

- **Jennifer Siegal**, environmental architect and founder of the Office of Mobile Design was selected by *Fast Company Magazine* as one of America's top five designers on the rise and is described in their story as one of the first architects to put a stake in the ground around environmental issues. "I am interested in how technology is influencing the way we form communities," said Siegal.
- **David Buckland**, artist and creator of the Cape Farewell project, a series of expeditions to the High Arctic bringing together artists, scientists and educators to create artworks, films and public information programs to raise awareness of climate change.

Symposium C6 was conceived and developed by Lynne Sowder and Victoria Burns of Burns Sowder Arts Advisory in collaboration with independent curator and critic Bruce Ferguson, and is produced by Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.

Participation in Symposium C6 is by invitation only. For more detailed information about Symposium C6 topics and scheduled speakers visit the C6 website at www.symposiumc6.com or call (312) 527.0126.

Journalists interested in receiving media credentials to cover Symposium C6 should contact: Shawn Kahle, Vice President, Public Relations, Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. via email at skahle@mmart.com or by calling 312.527.7074.

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