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For Immediate Use
June 3, 2009

Cultural Copy: Visual Conversations on Indigenous Art and Cultural Appropriation Opens at the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History July 7, 2004

In the wake of increasing forms of commercialization of art and ideas, indigenous peoples have begun to re-appropriate the symbols, motifs, and values that define what it means to be “Native” in a non-Native world. In ‘Cultural Copy: Visual Conversations on Indigenous Art and Cultural Appropriation’ – on view at the Fowler Museum of Cultural History from July 7 through Sept. 12, 2004 – works by contemporary artists from Native North America and Indigenous Australia reflect on various forms of appropriation, from dispossession of land to artistic misappropriation and creative collaborations.

‘Cultural Copy’ features the works of Indigenous Australian artists and Native American artists from the United States and Canada, and includes paintings, mixed media, photographs, digital prints, sculpture, and installations. Indigenous Australian artists are Richard Bell, Gordon Syron, Kathleen Petyarre (with Ray Beamish), Jennifer Herd, Fiona Foley, Vernon Ah Kee, Michael Eather and Michael Nelson Jagamara, Jenny Fraser, plus an interactive installation by Australian art scholar, Vivien Johnson. Native North American artists include Frank LaPena, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Arthur Amiotte, Anthony White, Colleen Cutschall, Nora Naranjo-Morse, Greg Hill, Roger Crait and Sam Toonoo.

Though thousands of miles separate indigenous artists of Australia and Native North America, the works presented in this exhibit explore common themes of cultural appropriation across cultural and national boundaries.

This exhibition is presented at the Fowler Museum in conjunction with the conference ‘Global Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations,’ held at UCLA July 6-9, 2004. The exhibition is organized by BorderZone Arts, Inc. in co-sponsorship with Common Ground, Australia, the Globalism Institute, RMIT University, Melbourne, and the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History. International curators are Tressa Berman, Jennifer Herd and Marie Bouchard. Support provided by the National Endowment for the Arts; California Council for the Humanities; The Christensen Fund; Rio Tinto; Canadian Consulate General, Los Angeles; Fire-Works Gallery, Brisbane, Australia; and the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, Canada.

The Fowler Museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.; and on Thursdays, noon until 8 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. The Fowler Museum, part of UCLA’s School of the Arts and Architecture, is located in the north part of the UCLA campus. Admission is

free. Campus parking is available for \$7 in Lot 4. For more information, the public may call (310) 825-4361 or visit www.fowler.ucla.edu.

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