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MEDIA RELEASE

MoPA Presents

***STATE OF MIND:
A California Invitational***

February 6 - June 6, 2010

(San Diego, CA) - For Immediate Release

EXHIBITION SUMMARY:

The Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) in Balboa Park is pleased to present *State of Mind: A California Invitational*. This exhibition celebrates an exhilarating range of photographic practices by twenty-one California photographers, selected by MoPA's Executive Director, Deborah Klochko, and Curator of Photography, Carol McCusker. Each of the photographers presented in the exhibition demonstrates a unique vision executed through a mastery of their craft.

The exhibition will open to the public on Saturday, February 6, 2010, and will be on view through Sunday, June 6, 2010.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

The photographers in *State of Mind* were nominated through a unique process, where invitations were sent to forty photography professionals within the state — curators, writers, gallery owners, publishers, and academics. Each was asked to nominate up to four California photographers who were producing innovative work. Ninety-eight names were submitted. From this pool, MoPA's Executive Director, Deborah Klochko, and Curator of Photography, Carol McCusker juried the exhibition, selecting twenty-one photographers, including Mona Kuhn, Todd Hido, Michael Light, Susan Rankaitis, Ken Gonzales-Day and Uta Barth. Most of these photographers have been practicing for over ten years, and have made their mark as full time artists and teachers in the state of California.

While regional by way of where the photographers live and work, the work presented is an exhilarating, visceral and engaging look at what is happening in photography today. Subjects presented range from expressing inner moods through abstract, sensual descriptions of the physical world, the scientific inquiry

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into the mechanics of light on the retina, historical documents interpreted anew, to unexpected contemporary views of California's beautiful and troubled topography. *State of Mind* is a sum view of what photography is capable of in the 21st century, as all works were created between 2005 and the present.

As broad as the range of subjects presented are, so are the range of processes: from wet-collodion (a 19th century practice); 3 dimensional work and collage; film and digital-based imagery; to combinations of each. And while the processes differ, all of these artists engage in the essence of photography — time and light — to describe memory, to re-investigate history, examine ideas of beauty, personal identity, and concern for the landscape.

The vast range of subjects, processes, and executions presented in this exhibition show us the infinite possibilities of photography today. *State of Mind* examines how photography continues to evolve and push the envelope of expression. As photographic technology continues to evolve, these photographers capture images in fresh ways, challenging the medium to elevate a heightened sense of awareness of our visual world, and capturing emotion, sensation and memory that combines traditional techniques with the excitement of digital possibilities.

Press Opportunities:

For a complete list of *State of Mind* artists, high resolution images, or to schedule interviews with artists, the Curator, or Director of MoPA, please contact Aki Martin, Marketing & Communications Manager at 619-238-7559, ext. 203 or via email (martin@mopa.org) with any press-related needs.

MoPA Information:

The Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) is one of the few museums in the country devoted to photography, film and video. Since its founding in 1983, MoPA has been dedicated to collecting, preserving and exhibiting the entire spectrum of the photographic medium. The museum's endeavors consistently address cultural, historical and social issues through its exhibitions and public programs.

Visit: mopa.org for information about exhibitions, programs and special events.

- **Hours:** Tuesday - Sunday 10 am-5 pm. Closed Mondays.
- **Gallery admission:** \$6 adults; \$4 students, seniors and retired military; FREE to members, children under 12 and active military. Admission is free to San Diego County residents and active military members on the second Tuesday of the month.
- **Docent Tours** for student groups (elementary through college) are available free of charge with advance reservations. Tours for non-students are also available, with advance reservations, at a discounted admission rate.

The Museum of Photographic Arts is accredited by the **American Association of Museums** and is a member-supported, private, non-profit institution. Additional support for museum programs is provided in part by the **City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation, the Weingart-Price Fund, the San Diego Foundation, Patrons of the Prado, and the National Endowment for the Arts.**

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