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**PERFORMANCE ARTISTS PUT HOMELESS WOMEN CENTER STAGE  
FOR EVENING OF HOPE AND DISCOVERY**

Miami's First *Ever* "Art Happening" to Benefit Lotus House Women's Shelter

**MIAMI (Aug. 1, 2009)** – *"What is a Happening? A game, an adventure, a number of activities engaged in by participants for the sake of playing."* ~ Allan Kaprow, American painter

Drumming, dancing, tasting and painting to blossom hope and make a difference in the community. Internationally renowned performance artists will join forces for the first time *ever* in Miami this fall to put a spotlight on real issues facing South Florida's homeless women at the **Fifth Annual Hope Blossoms - An Art Happening** Fundraiser, benefiting the Lotus House Women's Shelter in downtown Miami. The event takes place October 16, 8-11 p.m., at the Margulies Warehouse (591 NW 27th Street, Miami).

For the fundraiser, Constance Collins Margulies, president of the Sundari Foundation, Inc., which operates Lotus House ( [HYPERLINK "http://www.lotushouseshelter.org"](http://www.lotushouseshelter.org) [www.lotushouseshelter.org](http://www.lotushouseshelter.org)), has taken a cue from the repertoire of American artist Allan Kaprow -- a groundbreaker in establishing concepts of performance art. He first used the term art "happening" in the 1950's to describe the immediacy of live art performances and the unfolding narrative of the creative work of artists and participants on the cutting edge of artistic movements of his time.

"This is an artistic adventure, the likes of which Miami has never seen," said Collins Margulies. "Artists representing every form of artistic medium -- painting, sculpture, photography, video, light, words, food, sound, dance, conceptual and, of course, performance -- are coming together from across the country for Lotus House and we are so grateful for their support. It is an event of historic proportions that will engage the audience in the creative process and unleash imagination as we create spontaneous works of art that symbolize our shared hopes and dreams for women and children in need."

Hosted by the Martin Z. Margulies Family Foundation and The Sundari Foundation, Inc., a non-profit public charity, dedicated to promoting the education, advancement and social inclusion of poor, disadvantaged and homeless women and children, this year's event will combine the talents of conceptual and performance artists, engaging participants to create "live works of art" through movement, music and material.

More than 30 contemporary performance artists will be in attendance, including The Fantastic Nobodies, Rashaad Newsome, Shinique Smith, Miwa Koizumi, Ellen Fisher, Vlatka Horvat, The Miami Poetry Collective, Trajal Harrell, Lee Walton, Gloria Leigh O'Connell, Max Gimblett and Matt Jones, David Ellis and Roberto Lange, Peggy Nolan and

Harumi Abe, Jason Schmidt, and Allison Berkoy and a drumming circle, led by Ruben Millares and Richard Marquez.

*"The New York Times* and several major art publications have recently highlighted 'happenings' as the newest revitalized movements of Kaprow's earlier works," added Martin Margulies, art collector and fundraiser co-host. "The process is spontaneous and one through which all those present become participants. These performance artists are going to connect with people to create something truly remarkable -- all in the name of hope."

A focused silent auction of the highest quality, benefiting Lotus House, will feature works of art created "live" that evening by performance artists as well as art works from artists in South Florida. Chef's tastings will also be served gallery-style, courtesy of generous local restaurants.

Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased by calling 305.365.2478 or online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.lotushouseshelter.org"](http://www.lotushouseshelter.org) [www.lotushouseshelter.org](http://www.lotushouseshelter.org). Limited sponsorship opportunities are still available. Current sponsors include the B. Carlin Foundation, Inc.; Art Miami; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Evelyn and Bruce Greer; Pat and Larry Stewart; Julie and Chris Petricone; Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod; Vincent Damian; Diane Walder, M.D. and Angela W. Whitman.

**[HYPERLINK "http://www.lotushouseshelter.org/art.html"](http://www.lotushouseshelter.org/art.html) [About the Performance Artists](#)**

**Gema Alava** - Alava was born in Madrid, Spain in 1973 and lives currently in New York. She studied at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Chelsea College of Art & Design in London and San Francisco Art Institute, earning prizes such as the Mapfre Foundation National Drawing Prize and several fellowships including the La Caixa Foundation Fellowship. She moved to New York in 2002 and was awarded positions at both the AIM Program at the Bronx Museum of the Arts of New York and the Emerge Program from Aljira-Center for Contemporary Art in New Jersey, which led to her first solo show in NYC, at Lance Fung Gallery. Her work has been exhibited at the Rana Museum in Norway, the Queens Museum of the Arts, The Bronx Museum of the Arts and the Solomon S. Guggenheim Museum in New York. She teaches and lectures at MoMA, the Metropolitan and Guggenheim Museums and The Whitney Museum of American Art. Her next solo show entitled "Tensions" opens in London this October, 2009.

Incorporating word art and the hopes and dreams of women who are homeless, Alava will work with the creative writing group of Lotus House as well as women from a shelter in New York City to create a unique collaborative wall installation.

**Allison Berkoy, and Drumming Circle, led by Ruben Millares and Richard Marquez**  
**Allison Berkoy** is a video and installation artist based in Brooklyn, New York. Berkoy graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from Northwestern University and a Masters in Performance Studies from New York University, with a focus in experimental and multi-media performance. Becoming more and more fixated on what a video image can "do" in a live, interactive context, Berkoy began to explore video as a performance object in expanded settings. Since 2003, Berkoy has created "video light shows," with live-mixed original footage for use as dynamic lighting and cinematic imagery. Often in collaboration with sound artists, these shows have occurred in music venues, galleries, festivals, art spaces,

theaters, restaurants, warehouses, and garages. In addition to live video shows, she creates videos for screens, interactive cinema events, and mixed-media video-based installations. In the past year, Berkoy has shown work at Capla Kesting Gallery, Leo Kesting Gallery, The DUMBO Art Under the Bridge Festival as a featured installation artist, and most recently at Fountain New York (Armory satellite fair) with a featured solo exhibition in a 300sqft train car. She is a current Artist in Residence at Brooklyn College, in the graduate program of Performance and Interactive Media Arts, and will begin a residency at The Experimental Television Center this spring.

Combining light, color and live video feed, Berkoy will collaborate with a meditative drumming circle comprised of both professional musicians and the audience, led by Ruben Millares and Richard Marquez.

**Ruben Millares** - Ruben Millares is a first-generation Cuban American musician, composer, visual artist and entrepreneur, born in Miami, Florida. He began playing drums at the age of 3½ and soon moved to the guitar, for which he has remained passionate ever since. With his band, Smiling Gums, he has been performing around the country for the past 10 years and most recently toured in Europe. His music incorporates Afro-Cuban rhythms and improvisation in rock 'n roll. Millares is also a visual artist, creating ethereal abstract landscape Sumi Ink drawings, and working in mixed media, exploring the interplay of man-made and natural materials in Zen inspired sculptural installations.

**Richard “Richie” Marquez** - As a devoted student of the drum, Richie Marquez has studied extensively with respected masters both of the Afro-Cuban tradition and American classical technique. The skill and artistry of mentors, such as Orlando “Puntilla” Rios, Francisco Aguabella and Lazaro Galarraga, are strong influences present throughout Marquez’s method. As a teenager, he completed Murray Spivack’s 2-year intensive course on classical technique and reading, providing him with a strong foundation of “stick control.” Working professionally as a drummer and percussionist since the age of 15, he has amassed an array of experiences from a diverse pool of renowned artists, including WAR, Paquito De Rivera, Eric Burdon (The Animals), Placido Domingo, The Brand New Heavies, Joe Cuba and Arturo Sandoval. Although he currently lives in Los Angeles, Marquez’s heart lies in his Cuban roots. He has had the honor of playing with Cuban legend Israel “Cachao” Lopez for 15 years, completing six albums (three Grammy-winning), three scores and two documentaries. Through his love of drumming, Marquez has evolved naturally as a teacher, both of workshops and private lessons, instructing children and adults, amateurs and professionals. His clients include James Caan and Dustin Hoffman. In addition to his musical pursuits, Marquez stays busy with an acting career, appearing in numerous national commercials, popular television programs, such as “Days of Our Lives” and “Las Vegas,” and films, including Andy Garcia’s “The Lost City” and Robert Duvall’s “Assassination Tango.” Marquez plays TOCA percussion instruments, Gretsch drums and Fat Conga cajones.

### **David Ellis and Roberto Lange**

**David Ellis** is an artist born into a family immersed in music. His paintings are often recorded in a form of digital time-lapse animation he calls motion painting. Like jazz, these works provide Ellis with an opportunity to combine ideas with collaborators and work solo within a form that promotes improvisation and spontaneity. Ellis often stages events when exhibiting his motion paintings, inviting musicians, performers, and sound artists to interpret

the work live. His motion painting, "Paint on Trucks in a World in Need of Love," was exhibited at MoMA. Ellis further explores sound with kinetic installations that produce analogue sequences in rhythm. His latest work, often in collaboration with composer Roberto Lange, deconstructs the inner workings of player pianos to create sprawling sculptures that automatically play percussive rhythms with recycled typewriters, buckets, bottles and cans. Recent projects have been exhibited at The Huntington Museum of Art, ICA Philadelphia, Rice University Gallery, and PS1/MoMA.

**Roberto Lange** - Lange is a sound artist born in South Florida and is the son of Ecuadorian immigrants. Growing up, he was surrounded by tropical heat and hurricanes that represented the rich colors of sound and people living in South Florida. The sound of bass and late-night "peñas" in and around his house carved a deep foundation into his interest for sound and the things producing them. The "pause-tape" and a karaoke machine gave birth to his first sounds and music. With whatever he could grab, guitars, tape-loops, hand claps and voice, Roberto was slowly revealing his way of hearing things. Roberto's musical pieces are adjusted and aligned with the moment they exist in and are constructed through improvised performances and accidental happenings. The music and sounds themselves have been over the years documented and compiled together by him and a few record labels most notably the label Arepaz based out of Miami. These "albums" are extensions of the after thought of what these songs do together as a group. The albums are based on themes that carry weight and maybe criticize an idea as an observation. Over the last four years Lange has collaborated with prominent visual and sound artist, David Ellis, to compose a new series of kinetic sound sculptures. Currently, Lange is working with famed music producer Guillermo Scott Herren in the group Savath & Savalas.

Incorporating sound recordings from Lotus House, Ellis and Lange will create a unique kinetic sculpture.

**The Fantastic Nobodies** - What began 10 years ago as informal party antics and costume wearing became, in the course of a decade of deepening friendships and via relentless political disillusionment, a highly developed and unique artistic language. The Fantastic Nobodies are a cast of starkly different performance characters who have collaborated together to create remarkable fusions of art and life. This is achieved through a common understanding in the group and the subsequent improvisation in the nature and definition of "The Moment." Acting as reflective mirrors for each other's creativity, the collective has fostered great breadth of production including: performance, infiltrations, social sculptures, situations, happenings, road-trips, cooking, photography, installations, video, music, poetry, painting, and drawing. These creative actions were consciously honed in an independent, self-made, punk rock inspired, and reclusive way while sometimes being documented through video and photography. The six founding artists are David Henry Brown Jr., Marc Grubstein, Steve Johnson, Daniel Joseph, Eric Laine and Chad Spicer. Recently featured in a six page spread in the spring edition of Art Papers, the Fantastic Nobodies have been touted as one of the most exciting performance based collectives to recently emerge. Having exhibited in several avant-garde galleries around the world, such as Jack the Pelican Presents This Ain't No Picnic (Brooklyn, July 2006), Brotundpsiele Gallery Operation Shit Storm (Berlin, July 2008), {CTS} Creative Thrift Shop America's Most UnWanted (Brooklyn, March 2009), they have mastered the art of the "situation," of which "The Living Frame" is most well known and celebrated. They have worked in collaboration with some of the most exciting entertainment professionals, such as German music duo Modeselektor - featuring the

Fantastic Nobodies in multiple live stage shows at top venues like the Melt Festival (Germany) - and the Bowery Ballroom (New York City). A music video was produced out of this collaboration, shot in the Nobodies Living Frame project and is due for world-wide internet release in September 2009.

The Fantastic Nobodies will work closely with the audience to create an “out-of-the-box” unfolding narrative of “Pandora’s Box”– there are no words to describe their unique style or the way in which the audience is compelled to respond.

**Ellen Fisher** - Fisher is a performance artist whose work combines gestural actions with visual components such as film, shadow play, objects and puppets. Fisher’s performance work is informed by ethnographic research in trance dance and rituals of South Asia, particularly Sri Lanka. Since 1981, she has toured solo work throughout Europe and the U.S., also directing large ensemble work reinterpreting myths and legends. She continues to perform her solo work and has started a new series of durational performances collaborating with artists and musicians. Most recently performing at “Location One” in New York City. Her film work, including documentaries, has been included in festivals and museum showings throughout the world. She performed with Meredith Monk / The House in the ‘70’s, in such works as “The Plateau Series” and “Recent Ruins,” and more recently has appeared in “mercy” and “impermanence” and is presently in development on “songs of ascension” with the Meredith Monk vocal ensemble. She has received funding through the NEA, Art Matters Inc., Jerome Foundation, NYFA and the Asian Cultural Council, winning a 2004 Humanities Fellowship and a 2005 Travel Grant. Her film “Dancing for Gods and Demons” documents authentic dance rituals of the Sinhalese in Sri Lanka. Fisher continues to teach and collaborate with artists on community intergenerational and intercultural projects, both domestically and internationally.

Fisher will work with women from Lotus House to create an interactive performance piece directed by the audience.

### **Max Gimblett and Matt Jones**

**Max Gimblett** - Living and working in New York City, Max Gimblett investigates the purity of material and form in his work focusing primarily on canvas, paper from all countries and wood panels with gold leaf gilding. Gimblett’s Asian and Pacific Rim ideology is apparent in his strong yet subtle works. Intrinsic to Gimblett’s practice is the influence of Asian art, particularly ink painting and calligraphy. Since 2005 Gimblett has been the Honorary Visiting Professor at the National Institute for the Create Arts and Industries at Auckland University, Auckland, New Zealand. He has held the title of Educator for the Guggenheim Museum, New York, giving numerous Sumi Ink Painting Workshops. On a recent trip to New Zealand, Gimblett gave two lectures on his Sumi Ink practice and one on the influence of the Eason on Western art. He also led Sumi Ink Paintings workshops at The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongawera and the Massey University in Wellington. Gimblett exhibits in the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and Japan, and more. A major monograph, Max Gimblett, was released in 2003 and the catalogue The Brush of All Things was published in 2004. Gimblett’s work is in many prestigious collections including: Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Auckland Art Gallery – Toi O Tamaki, Auckland; and The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongawera, Wellington.

**Matt Jones** is an artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York. Primarily a painter, Jones has this to say about his work: "I'm really interested in presence, the infinite moments in any duration of time, the shifting understanding of things relative to those infinite moments, and our collective agreed upon understanding of reality, and all of their implications. The paintings and drawings I have been making for the last year are the contemplative exploration of these attitudes and ideas." A graduate of The Cooper Union (2002) and attendee of the Yale/Norfolk Summer School of Painting (2001) he has consistently showed in solo and group exhibitions in New York and abroad since 2003. He will be collaborating with Max Gimblett in the Lotus House Art Happening.

Drawing on the immediacy of Zen inspired art, Gimblett and Jones will guide the audience to perform their own classical Sumi Japanese paintings.

**Trajal Harrell** - Harrell's choreographic work proposes an alternative historicity of early postmodern American dance. By bringing together aesthetic theories from the Judson legacy with the Voguing dance tradition (an underground African-American and Latino custom of social performance and fashion show appropriation begun in Harlem during the same time as Judson Dance Theater), Harrell complexifies the historical narrative of the Judson period and its subsequent influence on American and European contemporary dance. Beginning in 2001, the choreographer used these two contrasting aesthetics and their parallel histories to stimulate a dialogue about the American as well as international youth culture obsession with "Cool," investigating the evolution of "Cool" and the interchange between "Cool" as a social motivation and "Cool" as an aesthetic. Harrell has also ventured forth to examine the production and visibility of community and audience within performance. In his latest work, his consideration has turned toward the possibility and potential conditions for sincerity on the contemporary stage while living in an artistic age of irony. From 1991 until 1998, he studied at The Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, The San Francisco Institute of Choreography, City College of San Francisco, Brown University, Movement Research, and Trisha Brown School. In 1998, he was selected as an artist-in-residence at Movement Research and since has been active in the development of research projects and curation at Movement Research, including curating an initiative to diversify Movement Research's programming through selection of artists of color for performance opportunities. In 2003, he was a guest artist at Mains d'Oeuvres (St. Ouen, France) and Le Centre National de la Danse (Paris). In 2005, he was invited as one of four emerging international choreographers to the Choreographic Window Project/ Tanz im August Internationales Tanzfest Berlin. In 2006, he participated in The Choreographers' Venture at The Impulstanz International Dance Festival in Vienna, Austria. In 2006, he was invited by TanzWerkstatt-Berlin for a residency to work on his creation, Showpony, to premiere in January 2007. In 2007, he was selected as a FUSED- French US Exchange in Dance- artist to receive residency and touring support in France through three national choreographic centers – Centre Chorégraphique National de Montpellier Languedoc-Rousillon, Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comté à Belfort, and Centre National de Danse Contemporaine Angers. In 2008, he was appointed co-artistic mentor for the DanceWeb program at the 2008 Impulstanz Vienna International Dance Festival.

Harrell will perform three unique choreographic works that engage the audience's imagination.

**Vlatka Horvat** - Born in 1974 in Čakovec, Croatia, Horvat is now living in New York and working in a range of media — from photography and works on paper to video, installation and performance. Her first U.S. solo exhibition, titled “Or Some Other Time,” opened in January 2009 at the Kitchen (New York), where she also presented a performance work *Once Over*. Other recent exhibitions include the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, McKee Gallery and Rachel Uffner Gallery (both in New York), the Netherlands Media Art Institute (Amsterdam), as well as Home Works IV festival in Beirut and Art Sheffield 08 (in collaboration with Tim Etchells). Upcoming projects in 2009 include the Istanbul Biennial, *This Here and That There* at Outpost for Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and at PACT Zollverein in Essen, Germany.

Horvat will engage the audience in an amusing and thought provoking conceptual work unfolding throughout the night – it’s a surprise!

**Miwa Koizumi** - Koizumi was born and raised in Japan. Before moving to New York in 2001, she studied in France for five years and in Bali, Indonesia with a group of Ethnographic Researchers. Her interests are varied, and she uses everyday life materials, as well as sound, image, smell and taste, to express her ideas in the full gamut of contemporary artistic practice. Koizumi received an MFA from Tama Art-University in Japan, and the DNSAP from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where she was honored with the Multimedia Prize upon graduation. Recently she has been studying the pidgin cultures resulting from the clash between the innumerable small tribes present in New York City. Miwa Koizumi has exhibited internationally in Japan, France, and the USA, including at the Japan Society and Socrates Sculpture Park, Price Tower Arts Center, Peekskill Project08, George Adams Gallery, Cuchifritos Gallery and Project Space, White Box, Artist Space, ISE foundation, Redux Contemporary Art Center, Flux Factory, Hungarian Cultural Center, Gallerie Caisse des Depots, Chateau d'Oiron, ENSBA, Parco Gallery also Full Fellowship residency-The Vermont Studio Center-(Vermont, USA), Lower East Side Rotating Studio Program-The Artists Alliance / Alianza de Artistas Inc (NY,USA)

Koizumi explores the taste of “hope” in her food-based performance art.

**Miami Poetry Collective ~ The Poem Depot** - The Miami Poetry Collective was founded by Campbell McGrath at a plastic table in front of Zeke’s Roadhouse Bar in November 2008. The group’s 25 members range from national prize-winning writers to never-before-published emerging poets and include visual artists as well, joined together by their shared passion for language. Members of the Miami Poetry Collective have been known to set up store to peddle their poetry on the street, writing poetry on demand based on topics suggested by passersby. The store challenges the notion that poetry has no connection to everyday life and seeks to demystify the writing process by de-privatizing the author-at-work. The Poem Depot has become a regular feature of Wynwood’s Second Saturday Art Walk, and has appeared in a number of other venues including the Miami Art Museum, in addition to being featured recently on WLRN’s radio program, “Under the Sun.” The MPC publishes and distributes *The Cent Journal Series: A Modern Anthology of Miami Poets*, a regularly appearing, closed-submission journal, and produces an on-going, multi-voiced poem on Twitter—search for @mpc140. This November, the group is presenting a roman-fleuve-style reading inspired by the plot structure of Robert Bolaño’s *The Savage Detectives*, at the 26th Annual Miami Book Fair. Many of the group’s activities are in collaboration with the University of Wynwood ([universityofwynwood.com](http://universityofwynwood.com)), a local arts-advocacy organization. The

group will include Richard Ryal, Pete Borrebach, David Landsberger, Yaddyra Peralta, Carol Todaro, Denise Delgado, Jamie May, Nick Vagnoni, and Scott Cunningham.

The Miami Poetry Collective will work with the audience to explore the meaning of hope through “word art” at the Poem Depot.

**Rashaad Newsome** - Newsome was born in New Orleans, Louisiana where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Art History at Tulane University before studying Film at Film Video Arts in New York City. Newsome has exhibited nationally and internationally at such creditable institutions and galleries as: The Kitchen, New York, NY; The Project Gallery New York, NY; Fondation Cartier Paris, France, The Veletrzní Palace Prague, Czech Republic; and K.U.E.L., Berlin, Germany. Recent commissions and awards include: “Shade Compositions 2009 (LMCC Downtown Dinner),” 7 World Trade Center, New York, NY; 2009/2010 Smack Mellon Artist Studio Program, Brooklyn, NY; 2008/2009 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace Artist Residency Program, New York, NY; 2009 BAC Community Arts Regrant, Brooklyn, NY and 2009 Harvestworks Van Lier Grant, New York, NY. He has recently been selected for the Artist in Residency program at Studio Museum in Harlem, NY.

Newsome leads the women of Lotus House in a dramatic synchronized symphony of sound and gesture.

#### **Peggy Nolan and Harumi Abe**

**Peggy Levison Nolan** is a mostly self-taught photographer and mother of seven working in South Florida. She is a full time staff member of the Art and Art History Department of Florida International University and Art Director for the Lotus House. Her work is collected by major institutions including New York’s MOMA, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Norton Museum of Art, National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Light Work Permanent Collection and the Martin Z. Margulies Collection. She has twice won the South Florida Consortium Individual Artist Grant and was selected for Light Work's artist-in-residence program in 2005.

**Harumi Abe**, a Japanese native, is an emerging artist who has shown her art extensively in South Florida. She is a recipient of 2008 South Florida Cultural Consortium for Visual and Media Artists and Women in the Visual Artists Scholarship. She received her MFA at Florida International University and BFA from Ai Miami International University of Arts and Design. Abe is adjunct professor at Broward College and Florida International University and gallery director of Fine Arts Gallery, Broward College Central Campus.

Abe and Nolan are collaborating with women sheltered at Lotus House, breaking barriers and stereo types with compassion and love, in Hope Blossoms.

**Gloria Leigh O’Connell** - O’Connell is a Miami-based photographer. She graduated with a Masters in Art History from Harvard University in 1986 and received a Masters of Fine Arts in Photography from Florida International University in 2001. Her work has been exhibited throughout the Caribbean courtesy of the Consulate General de France and has also been shown during Art Basel Miami Beach at the Margulies Collection at the Warehouse. She has participated in group exhibitions at Aqua, the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, the Frost Art Museum and Dorsch Gallery, among others. She is an award recipient of the Betty Laird Collection at Florida International University.

O’Connell will work closely with the audience in her interactive photography studio, inviting

them to create a wall of hope.

**Jason Schmidt** - Schmidt explores the notion of what it means to be a functioning artist with his ongoing series of artist portraits. For the past ten years, he has been traveling the globe documenting contemporary artists from emerging to well established, in the interest of capturing them amidst the intimacy of their creative process. For Schmidt, gaining such rare access to these artists at work in their studios provides him an almost voyeuristic perspective on a practice often experienced by his subjects, in utter solitude. Through this unique perspective his camera lens serves as witness to the birth of creativity and his resulting documentation further conveys his passion for “making art out of art.” Jason Schmidt’s first monograph aptly titled “Artists” was released in 2007 by Steidl Press. This very ambitious project featured 131 artists from all over the world. Jason Schmidt graduated from Columbia University in 1991 with a degree in Art History. His photographs have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Vanity Fair, Harper’s Bazaar, The New Yorker, and V Magazine. Schmidt lives and works in New York City.

True to the tradition of all great art happenings, Schmidt will “document” the creative process of the artists in Hope Blossoms.

**Shinique Smith** - Installations, sculptures, and paintings by Smith have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in the United States and Europe at venues that include: The National Portrait Gallery, The New Museum, Yvon Lambert, PS 1 Contemporary Arts Center, The Studio Museum in Harlem, and The Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art. Her work, which focuses on connections between clothing, everyday objects and graffiti-inspired calligraphy, has been reviewed in Art News, ArtForum, The New York Times, Art In America, and The New Yorker, among others. Shinique Smith’s first solo exhibition at Yvon Lambert New York, Ten Times Myself, is on view until July 31, 2009. The exhibition features new works by the artist including paintings and sculptures. Infusing an ardent style owing to Abstract Expressionism and Japanese Calligraphy, the continuity of Smith’s paintings, collages, and sculptures combine a graceful spontaneity and an explosive, yet controlled movement. In each medium, the artist utilizes discarded objects - many of which, alone, lack significance. Integrating intense and vibrantly hued textiles that weave in and out of each work, Smith creates her own form of calligraphic gesture that transgresses the written language. The result is an autobiographical narrative that speaks to nostalgia and the inherent examination of the meaning of “broken” as well as “whole.”

With offerings of hope (colored ribbons, pillows, paint, buttons, and pins) created by the audience, Smith will collaborate with them to fabricate a sculpture, entitled Hope Blossoms, the theme of the Art Happening.

**Lee Walton** - Often regarded as an “Experientialist,” Walton’s work takes many forms- from drawings, video, net-art, public performances, social architectures and more. Walton has received many accolades from museum funded projects (Reykjavik Art Museum of Iceland, ICA Boston, Rhizome at The New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY), public commissions (Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Art in General, Socrates Sculpture Park) national and international exhibitions (The Powerplant Gallery, Performa ’05, Island 6, Shanghai, China, The City Museum of Ljubljana) Honors (CAA Centennial, S.J. Truman Award, 8th Havana Biennial of Cuba and the Headlands Center for the Arts) and collections (Metropolitan Museum of Art, Martin Z. Margulies Warehouse, Columbus Museum, GA).

Walton also curates exhibitions and events (Weatherspoon Art Museum (NC), Conflux, (NY) and lectures extensively on his practice. Walton's work is represented by Krashaur Galleries (NY). He is an Assistant Professor of Art at the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Walton will collaborate with Miami-based dancers to create a conceptual work of joy and hope with silent sound and movement.

*The Art Happening will be documented in the tradition of cinema verite throughout the night by videographers, that we may recall and preserve this historic coming together of art and community benefiting the Lotus House and other initiatives of the Sundari Foundation.*

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**About the Sundari Foundation, Inc.**

The Sundari Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, non-denominational public charity which assists disadvantaged women and children. In 2006, the Foundation established the Lotus House as a prototype resource center and transitional housing facility for homeless women and children in the heart of Overtown, one of the poorest inner-city neighborhoods in the United States. The Lotus House Women's Shelter provides free housing for up to one year in addition to meals, clothing and a wide range of support services and resources.