

News Release

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Two Laguna Beach Galleries Unite in a Two-Month Celebration of Abstract Master Karl Momen

LAGUNA BEACH, CA — **Endangered Planet Gallery** and **Marion Meyer Contemporary Art** Gallery are joining forces in October and November to bring an exciting two-gallery exhibition of paintings and sculptures by **Karl Momen** to Laguna Beach. The two-month celebration of artworks by the 72-year-old Swedish abstract master will include a public speaking event by Momen at The Laguna Playhouse, on Saturday, October 14, at 10:30 a.m., and a reception for the artist at each of the two galleries. Admission to the lecture is free, but tickets are required. Tickets are available at both galleries and at the offices of event co-sponsor **COAST Magazine**.

A solo exhibition of new Momen paintings will open October 2 at **Endangered Planet Gallery**, with a reception for the artist on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 4:00 p.m. The nine new paintings, all created in 2006 especially for the exhibition, reflect Momen's concepts and ideas relating to Endangered Planet's mission of protecting the planet and focusing attention on environmental and ecological concerns. The Momen show will continue at the gallery until December 3.

At **Marion Meyer Contemporary Art**, epic Momen paintings and sculptures from the '90s will be exhibited, including "**Siegmund and Notung**" (1994), a 60" x 60" companion painting to Momen's famed ten-painting Wagner suite now in the permanent collection of Seattle's Nordic Heritage Museum. Also included in the exhibition is "**Romeo and Juliet's Dance**" (1994), which was featured at the Brigham Young University Museum of Art (Provo, Utah) in 1995 and in several museum exhibitions in the U.S. in recent years, organized by International Arts and Artists (Washington, D.C.). Momen's exhibition at Marion Meyer Contemporary Art opens on October 14 and continues until December 3. On Saturday, October 14, the show's opening day, the gallery will host a reception for Momen, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Karl Momen is an internationally noted painter and sculptor whose works are in public and private collections in Europe, Japan and the U.S. Here in America, Momen is best known as the creator of the epic 87'-tall "Metaphor: The Tree of Utah" sculpture that is located adjacent to Interstate 80 in the stark Bonneville Salt Flats region of Utah. This monumental sculpture, completed in 1986, is seen by millions of travelers each year.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be bringing these dynamic and powerful works by European master Karl Momen to art collectors in Laguna Beach and Southern California," said **Marion Meyer** of Marion Meyer Contemporary Art. "In collaboration with Endangered Planet Gallery, we are hosting a two-gallery exhibition of epic and new Momen works that are, simply, some of the finest



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abstract creations of any artist working today.”

Born in Iran in 1934, Momen moved to Germany in the late 1950s and studied art and architecture there. In Germany he worked for both **Max Ernst**, one of the masters of Surrealism, and **Le Corbusier**, one of Europe’s foremost architects. Momen moved to Sweden in 1962 and, after establishing himself as a successful architect, began to work full-time as an artist and sculptor in 1977. Since then his work has been exhibited in numerous museums and galleries worldwide, including most recently The American Swedish Museum (Chicago, IL, 2004), The Tech Museum of Innovation (San Jose, CA, 2005), and the Nordic Heritage Museum (Seattle, WA, 2006). Earlier this year, Momen’s “Nexus” exhibition appeared at the Krasl Art Center (St. Joseph, MI), where it was sponsored by the Michigan Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

His ten-painting suite on the operas of **Richard Wagner** was purchased earlier this summer by Seattle’s Nordic Heritage Museum, which plans to add a new wing to the museum for permanent exhibition of this series of 67” x 67” works. Momen, who holds dual U.S. and Swedish citizenship, currently lives in Stockholm, Sweden, and frequently works in the U.S. at his studio in Sausalito, CA.

Endangered Planet Gallery is located at 384 Forest Ave., #13, in the Lumberyard Mall; telephone (949) 497-5690 for information, or go to endangeredplanet.org.

Marion Meyer Contemporary Art is located at 354 N. Coast Highway; call (949) 497-5442 or visit marionmeyergallery.com.

COAST Magazine is located at 240 Newport Center Drive, Suite 290 Newport Beach, CA 92660; telephone (949)-644-4700 for information, or visit coastmagazine.com.

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