



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kristina Newhouse or Natalie Schoer
310-618-6340
torranceartmuseum@torrnet.com

South Bay Focus

Carol Es: A Girl Apart

On view January 13 – March 9, 2007

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 13th from 7 to 10 pm

Sponsored by the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation

**Gallery Talk with curator Kristina Newhouse
February 15th from 2-4 pm**

January 2, 2007

Torrance, California— At the Torrance Art Museum, San Pedro artist Carol Es exhibits mixed media drawings, paintings, and a site-specific figurative installation utilizing straight pins and thread.

At a time when most kids her age were in junior high, Carol Es worked in the family business as a pattern cutter in the apparel industry. The environment in which she labored was filled with neglect and abuse. As a teenager, Es had the strength and wisdom to extricate herself from these circumstances. However, the memories remain.

As a visual artist later in life, Es has allowed patterns and implements of garment manufacturing to re-enter into her works. Intrigued by the shapes and forms of cut fabric, she has reclaimed pattern making as a visual motif. She incorporates sewing pins, fabric, and thread into her compositions, often stitching directly through canvas or the stiff manila cardstock commonly used to cut patterns, and crafting each art element with the same hand tools she used as a child.

Investing her artistic pattern making with candid narratives, Es revisits her childhood and searches for pieces of identity. Through the means of storytelling, she reenacts the past in order to transcend it. By taking possession of dark memories and refashioning those to better suit her, she believes she can mend her life. Through this redemptive art making process, Carol Es hopes to transform a difficult past into a positive and hopeful present.

In 2007, Carol Es will have one-person exhibitions at the Koelsch Gallery in Houston, Texas and the George Billis Gallery in Los Angeles. Also in 2007, her works will be included in exhibitions at Gallerie Urbane in Marfa, Texas, the Riverside Art Museum, and the Los Angeles Craft & Folk Art Museum. In 2006, her handmade artist's book, *I-Self* was purchased by the J. Paul Getty Trust Research Institute Library for their permanent collection.

About the Torrance Art Museum

The Torrance Art Museum is a program of the Cultural Services Division of the City of Torrance Community Services Department. The Cultural Services Division is responsible for City-sponsored arts and cultural initiatives held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center and throughout the City.

Through its emphasis on contemporary artistic expression in Southern California, the Torrance Art Museum brings together visual artists and community members; fosters personal and civic well being by inspiring understanding and appreciation of the visual arts; promotes meaningful experiences in the arts to strengthen creative and critical thinking skills; and builds bridges between the visual arts and other disciplines in the humanities and sciences.

The exhibition ***Carol Es: A Girl Apart*** has been made possible in partnership with the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, Inc. Educational programming has been supplemented by a generous grant from Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and his 2006 Arts Education Partnership.

Also on view at the Torrance Art Museum

Main Gallery: *It Figures*

Works by: Barbara Berk, Joe Biel, Annie Buckley, Drew Dominick, Mary Beth Heffernan, Faris McReynolds, Michael Barton Miller, Holly Topping, Liat Yossifor, Mary Younakof

Historically, figurative art satisfied humanity's need to see itself represented. Figuration, however, has always operated well beyond the constraints of mere representation, as other narratives of selfhood vie for consideration. In the present moment, artists find themselves compelled to adapt the form and content of figuration in response to the ever-increasing and almost overwhelming amount of information that contends daily for our attention. Contributing to the pervasive onslaught of pop consumerism is the burgeoning influence of digital media. The immediacy of electronic gadgets from cell phones and digital cameras to websites such as Youtube and Myspace nurtures the development and promotion of personal identity as a media event. At the same time, a troubling, steady stream of global crises inhibits us from engaging in all-out isolationism and self-absorption. Almost daily, we are forced to

confront our deep and sometimes contradictory concerns about self-defense, aggression, and perceptions of national identity. The artists of *It Figures* acknowledge the continuum between individual and collective identity in works that are entertaining, provoking, and sometimes difficult to look at.

**Gallery Two: *Drawn In*
*Drawing in Residence, Phase III***

Works by Geoff Allen, Joe Biel, Lynne Berman, Hillary Bleecker, Ismael De Anda, Martin Durazo, Nancy Evans, It Can Change (An Oakland-based art collective), Alison Goldberg, Alexandra Grant, Todd Gray and Kyungmi Shin, Liz Harvey, Seth Kaufman, Sarah Moseley, John O'Brien, Yoshua Okon, Elizabeth Saveri, Martin Schnuer, Marcus Seldinger, Susan Silton, Joe Sola, Indigo Som and Oriane Stender, Eric Golo Stone, Carrie Ungerman, Rachel Urkowitz, and Nives Widauer

Since 1999, guest curator Marcy Freedman has hosted "Drawing in Residence" an urban, day-long artist's residency. Taking a unique approach to fostering community amongst artists and playing off the more traditional definition of an "artist residency," Freedman has invited more than 30 artists to spend the day making drawings at her home or studio. At the Torrance Art Museum, we will present works by 25 of the artists who have participated in Freedman's "Drawing in Residence." During the two-month presentation of *Drawn In*, three new artists have been asked to participate in residencies on-site at the Museum. Two of these artists, Nancy Evans and Rachel Urkowitz, will be producing artworks, while a third, Eric Golo Stone, will invite the community to engage with him in a conversation about Zen Gardens, using the Torrance Cultural Arts Center's own Pine Wind Garden as a point of departure. This free event begins Saturday, March 3rd at 2 pm.

Admission to exhibits at the Torrance Art Museum is free. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, from 12 - 6 pm. Additional information about special events and upcoming arts programming at the Torrance Art Museum can be requested by email at torranceartmuseum@torrnet.com or by calling 310-618-6340.