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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
METROPOLITAN ARTS PARTNERSHIP

EXHIBIT: *Offering to Kali Ma* an installation by artist Khimberly Maarshall

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, August 10, 6:00 - 9:00 pm (Exhibition ends November 27, 2006)

LOCATION: The Arts Building, *MAP GALLERY OF MYTH, STORIES AND LIVING TRADITIONS*, 808 Lincoln, Auburn, CA 95603

A SYMBOL OF ETERNAL CYCLES...OF CHAOS AND CREATION,
"OFFERING TO KALI MA" AT THE *MAP GALLERY OF MYTH, STORIES AND LIVING TRADITIONS*

In its second opening exhibition the MAP Gallery of Myth, Stories and Living Traditions presents, "*Offering to Kali Ma*," an installation by artist Khimberly Maarshall. This site specific installation that draws upon Kali is a symbol of the eternal cycle of Chaos and Creation. As artist Khimberly Maarshall states,

"Without death, there can be no life. She (Kali) is creation itself in all of its primordial forms. She is the ethers and the earth. The life giver and destroyer. Through her the head of ignorance is severed and true reality and bliss take it's place. She holds the key to time and eternity. She gives strength and guidance on our life journey. Since she is known as the destroyer of demons...Kali worshipers invoke her tackling their own personal inner demons."

Maarshall's installation is derivative and inspired from Hindu teaching of Kali, one of the primary deities in Hindu belief. Taken from the religious section of the About Hindu web site <http://hinduism.about.com/library/weekly/aa051202a.htm>, it states:

"The love between the Divine Mother and her human children is a unique relationship. Kali, the Dark Mother is one such deity with whom devotees have a very loving and intimate bond, in spite

of her fearful appearance. In this relationship, the worshipper becomes a child and Kali assumes the form of the ever-caring mother.”

Artist Maarshall’s work is reflective of a temple dedicated to Kali Ma with a life size Kali at its pentacle. She creates several altars that relate, absorb and dialogue with the main altar. The viewer walks into the site and begins the same process of being absorbed in the tremendous presence of Kali Ma and her many subtleties. There are offerings and gifts of gratitude that the participant may select from and place at the feet of Kali. Maarshall also painted 6 panels to flank the main Kali Ma altar. These panels represent the 4 elements: Fire, Water, Air, and Earth. Here the artist utilizes candles and other ambient lighting effects including a night sky to create an atmosphere of mystery and wonder.

The installation fills the 30x30 feet gallery with a series of altars depicting various aspects of Kali Ma ("the black one") with symbols and cycles of destruction and creation. She (Kali Ma) destroys ignorance, maintains the world order, and blesses and frees those who strive for knowledge.

Khimberly Maarshall works as a performance artist, she has worked in many theatres in the Sacramento & Placerville communities as an actor, dancer and performance artist. She has directed several stage plays and hopes to move into the film industry if her Master’s Degree doesn’t call her first! A great believer of Chaos and Creation and an advocate for the liberation from fear, she was spurred to dedicate this temple to Kali Ma, the Primordial Mother of Awareness, Redemption, and Freedom. She would like to thank “Mommy” for loving her always; to Devy, Kris & Al for their constant support; to Laura for her eternal friendship; and to Lla Lla for always keeping her in her heart.

THE MAP GALLERY OF MYTH, STORIES AND LIVING TRADITIONS

Envisioned to evoke the transformative value of historic and contemporary cultural traditions, MAP’s Gallery uses the power of myth, stories and imagination to give voice to the universality of cultural traditions. The gallery is an outreach program of the Metropolitan Arts Partnership (“MAP”) and is designed to provide a greater presence in the region. The Gallery of Myth, Stories and Living Traditions will soon expand to include a companion lecture, workshop and conference series.

The primary programs of MAP are its work place giving Arts Fund; the management of the local federal workplace giving program, the Combined Federal Campaign; and the gallery outreach program in the Arts Building located in downtown Auburn. The Arts Building is a collective of regional artists and arts organizations. MAP’s Gallery participates in the quarterly Art Walk openings, a program of the Arts Council of Placer County. MAP also maintains an office in mid-town Sacramento; within the historic brick building that houses the 20th Street Art Gallery.

For more information contact, MAP executive director, Michelle Walker, 916.442.4016 or michelle@mapgives.com. -END-