



**MEDIA ALERT**  
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**CONTACT INFO:** **Will Caperton y Montoya**  
**Director of Marketing and Development**  
**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**  
will.caperton@lacity.org  
213.202.5538

**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**  
**presents the 2014**  
**City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships**  
**Capturing LA's Creative Spirit**

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG), and the LAMAG Associates are pleased to present the **2014 City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artists Fellowships**. The program's visual arts exhibition will be on view at LAMAG in Barnsdall Park from May 4 through June 15, 2014 with an opening reception on May 4, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Performances by the literary artists will take place on June 29, 2014 at Grand Performances.

Awarded annually by DCA, the C.O.L.A. Fellowships support the creation of new works by a selection of the City's most exemplary mid-career artists. The C.O.L.A. exhibition honors these creative visionaries and nurtures the symbiotic relationship between LA, its artists, its history, and its identity as an international arts capital.

Chosen by a team of experts, the 2014 C.O.L.A. award recipients in the visual arts include **Stephen Berens, Kristin Calabrese, Jennifer Celio, Elena Manferdini, Jessica Rath, Ross Rudel, Hector Silva, Corey Stein, Linda Vallejo**, and brothers **Kent and Kevin Young**. The 2014 C.O.L.A. award recipients in literature are **Jen Hofer** and **Gabriel Spera**. Each artist will present new work created specifically for C.O.L.A. with a \$10,000 grant awarded by DCA.

"Los Angeles is the creative capital of the world, with a dynamic and diverse visual arts scene," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "The C.O.L.A. grants from LA's Department of Cultural Affairs are an investment in our local artists and enhance our city as a global destination for art, culture, and creativity."

This year's C.O.L.A. exhibition, curated by Scott Canty, LAMAG's Director, presents a distinctive pairing of the visual arts and literature. From poets to photographers, this year's C.O.L.A. fellows represent a diverse cross-section



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of well-known and accomplished visual and literary artists, whose works have made a mark on the Los Angeles arts scene. Designed by Garland Kirkpatrick, and edited by Jade Jewett, this year's catalog will be available online after May 4 at lamag.org. Admission is free for all events. For more information about the C.O.L.A. exhibition, performances, and programming, please visit: lamag.org and culturela.org.

**Visual Artists:**

**Stephen Berens** is a photographer whose panoramic compositions are held in New York's Museum of Modern Art and Los Angeles' Getty Research Institute. Evoking the swift and ever-changing viewpoint of a passenger riding on a train, Beren's work captures "passages of motion in time" in fleeting moments and chance configurations that reflect the "mechanical mediations" between the photographer and his camera.

**Kristin Calabrese** is a Los Angeles-based painter, specializing in hyperrealist oil painting. In her recent paintings she probes the world of voids, black holes, secrets, and blindness, creating realistic illusions that test the viewer's notions of transparency. Calabrese's works have exhibited at the Brennan & Griffin Gallery in New York, Leo Koenig, Inc., and the Michael Janssen gallery in Cologne, Germany.

**Jennifer Celio** is a visual artist inspired by the frequent and "inelegant encounters" between the natural and built environments in the city of Los Angeles. Celio captures this "uneasy coexistence" in intricate and immersive pencil drawings of local landscapes that thoughtfully consider the impact of humans on nature, as well as the environment's influence on human lives.

**Elena Manferdini** is an architect and founder of design firm Atelier Manferdini in Venice, CA. Holding a masters in Architecture and Urban Design from UCLA, Manferdini has been recognized internationally for her imaginative and multi-disciplinary art, architecture, and product design. Her award-winning designs and installations have been featured at Los Angeles' Museum of Contemporary Art, The Museum of Art in Birmingham, UK, as well as architecture biennales in Korea, China, and her homeland, Italy.

**Jessica Rath** is a multimedia artist who explores the role of beauty and attraction in agriculture by finding inspiration in the "things that are close to home." Depicting the unexpected beauty of fading trees, ripened fruit, and napping children, her solo exhibitions at the Torrance Art Museum, Pasadena Museum of Art, and Otis College of Art and Design suggest an idyllic harmony between home and garden that also questions human actions as they relate to nature.



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**Ross Rudel** creates visceral sculptures that evoke intense psychological drama. Rudel draws out the character of a form, effortlessly revealing hidden patterns and forms. His works have been featured at Otis College of Art and Design and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

**Hector Silva** has played an influential role in the Gay Latino visual arena, exhibiting his work in a range of venues from galleries to swap meets. Influenced by Los Angeles’ Latino street culture and gay nightlife, Hector’s depiction of an eroticized “homeboy aesthetic”— bald heads, Dodger caps, oversized white T-shirts, and Nike Cortez sneakers—signals a “Los Angeles style vector” that remaps the city’s LGBT cultural scene in a daring visual register.

**Corey Stein** is a visual artist based in Sunland, CA. From her on-site studio, she combines “droll and eccentric whimsy with serious subjects” to create works that provoke “thoughtful and amused attention.” Drawn to word play and comedy, Stein explores the problems of an individual artist and woman through the expressive power of humor.

**Linda Vallejo’s** artwork is deeply influenced by her multicultural outlook as a Mexican American artist raised in Los Angeles and internationally. Featured in several books on the Chicano art movement in Los Angeles, Vallejo’s paintings, installations, sculptures, and collages continue to comment on Latino identity in the United States.

**Kent and Kevin Young** are multimedia, performance artists whose work is deeply influenced by their relationship as twins and creative collaborators. Together, the brothers have created multifaceted exhibitions in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco that interrogate the phenomenological quality of the “twin dichotomy,” while highlighting the tension between the real and the represented.

**Literary Artists:**

**Jen Hofer** is a poet, literary activist, faculty member at CalArts and Otis College of Art and Design, and an award-winning translator of famed Mexican writers Dolores Dorantes, Myriam Moscona, Laura Solórzano, and Cristina Rivera Garza (forthcoming). Currently experimenting with silent film narratives and the spoken word, Hofer’s fascination with the complications of translation is a new chapter in her expansive body of published works.

**Gabriel Spera** is a nature poet drawn to exploring the “emotional arrhythmia of life” in verses marked by meticulous rhyme schemes and wayward depictions of life’s pitfalls. Spera has published two books of poetry, *The Rigid Body* and *The Standing Wave*, as well performed his poetry at festivals throughout California and the United States.



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### About DCA

The **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles' 4 million residents and 40 million annual overnight and day visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and ensures access to diverse and enriching cultural activities through: grantmaking, marketing, development, public art, community arts programming, arts education, and building partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles.

DCA's projected operating budget and managed portfolio totals \$52 million in fiscal year 2013/14. It consists of: \$13.4 million in City related and indirect cost allocations; \$10.5 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; \$9 million in one-time City funding; \$9 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program (PWIAP); \$7.5 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program (ADF); and \$2.4 million raised to date this fiscal year in private and public funds from foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors.

DCA significantly supports artists and cultural projects through its Public Art Division by administering a portfolio totaling \$16.5 million in PWIAP and ADF funds in FY13/14. Of this amount, typically 15% to 20%, or between \$2.5 and \$3.3 million, is attributable to artists' fees.

DCA's Marketing and Development Division has raised \$26 million over the last 12 fiscal years to re-grant to LA-based artists and arts and cultural organizations, and to support DCA's special programming and facilities. DCA also grants approximately \$2.3 million annually to 268 artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through its long-established Grants Administration Division. Additional special project support of more than \$1.5 million is also awarded annually for a total of approximately \$3.8 million invested each year in LA's creative community.

DCA provides arts and cultural programming through its Community Arts Division, managing numerous neighborhood arts and cultural centers, theaters, historic sites, and educational initiatives. DCA's Marketing and Development Division also markets the City's arts and cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative catalogs, publications, and promotional materials, and management of the [culturela.org](http://culturela.org) website visited by over 3 million people annually.



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### About LAMAG

The **Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)** is the flagship exhibition space for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. LAMAG showcases the work of emerging, mid-career, and established artists whose contributions enhance the culture of the city and help make creativity LA's number one economic engine. The Gallery's reputation for supporting Los Angeles artists and cultural communities through its exhibitions is unparalleled.

The original gallery, a temporary structure designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, was built in 1954. The current 10,000 square foot gallery opened in 1971, presenting and interpreting successive waves of artists and movements.

Today, exhibitions of contemporary art are developed by DCA's curatorial staff and with invited guest curators. For over fifteen years, LAMAG has premiered the artwork of the recipients of DCA's annual City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships and has collaborated with important arts and cultural institutions.

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