

contemporaryartsmuseum houston

5216 Montrose Blvd Houston, TX 77006-6547
t (713) 284-8250 f (713) 284-8275 www.camh.org

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MEDIA CONTACT
Connie McAllister
Communications and Marketing Manager
t (713) 284-8255 cmcallister@camh.org

The public is invited to the wedding ceremony and reception for The Art Guys Marry A Plant



© The Art Guys

The proper basis for a marriage is mutual misunderstanding. ~ Oscar Wilde
One should never know too precisely whom one has married. ~Friedrich Nietzsche

Houston, TX—As part of the exhibition *No Zoning: Artists Engage Houston* currently on view at the CAMH, The Art Guys will marry a live oak tree (*quercus virginiana*) in a public ceremony on June 13, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. All are invited to attend the wedding, which will take place in the Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Montrose Blvd at Bissonnet St). A public reception immediately following at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston celebrates the occasion with cake and beverages to toast the newlyweds.

The Art Guys Marry a Plant, first conceived in 2004, is the latest in a body of “behavior” works by The Art Guys wherein the perceived boundaries between sculpture and performance, art and life, philosophy and action, are blurred to the point of being indistinguishable. *The Art Guys Marry A Plant* will be conducted as a typical American wedding ceremony and will be presided over by Ed Cooper, ordained minister.

The Art Guys Marry a Plant is a work that will take place in several stages and will have several components. In addition to the wedding and reception, the tree will be on display at the CAMH as part of the *No Zoning* exhibition. Subsequently, the live oak will be planted in a public ceremony at a location to be determined and will be accompanied by a commemorative bronze plaque to mark its significance for future audiences. The date and location of the planting will be announced at a later date.

“Is the performance an exploration of Germanic lore linking manhood to tree planting, a symbol of our simultaneously loving and destructive relationship to nature, or a provocative test of the slippery-slope ‘what’s next?’ argument used by supporters of California’s recently upheld Proposition 8, outlawing gay marriage? The Art Guys aren’t saying. They are simply planning an all-out polyandrous, inter-kingdom hitch-fest and will let the ensuing debate shape the meaning,” says Senior Curator Toby Kamps.

ARTIST MULTIPLE

In conjunction with *No Zoning: Artists Engage Houston*, the CAMH has published a new multiple by The Art Guys. *The Art Guys Marry A Plant Wedding Cake Topper*, 2009, produced in an edition of 12, is a small sculpture commemorating the performance The Art Guys will present on Saturday, June 13, 2009, in which they will marry a live oak tree in a public ceremony. Please call (713) 284-8272 for pricing and availability.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Free from the land-use and zoning ordinances that shape other large American cities by separating residential, commercial, and industrial areas, Houston allows a mixed-use approach where disparate architectures and functions blend. In this often chaotic, jarring urban topography, many Houston artists have been able to carve out spaces and opportunities for themselves, their work, and their communities. ***No Zoning: Artists Engage Houston*** is the first museum exhibition to consider the current and past efforts of regional artists working in the urban environment. On view through October 4.

EXHIBITION FUNDING AND SUPPORT

No Zoning: Artist Engage Houston has been made possible by generous support from the Union Pacific Foundation.

This exhibition has been made possible by the patrons, benefactors, and donors to the Museum's Major Exhibition Fund: Major Patron—Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Fayez Sarofim, and Michael Zilkha; Patrons—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Kempner III, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Leigh and Reggie Smith; Benefactors—Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Jackson Hicks /

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Special thanks to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, which is cosponsoring *The Art Guys Marry A Plant* wedding ceremony.

GENERAL SUPPORT

The Museum's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, Inc., the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Continental is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

CAMH MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is an idea and a place shaped by the present moment. The Museum exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse.

ALWAYS FRESH, ALWAYS FREE

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Thursdays to 9:00 PM, and Sundays noon to 5:00 PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit www.camh.org or call (713) 284-8250.

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