



## New Orleans Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Filmmakers Chin and Shearer to Discuss Artistic Creativity in the Wake of Disaster**

**NEW ORLEANS, La. (Monday, August 11, 2008)**— A pair of thoughtful short films made in the wake of disaster, *9-11/9-11* by Mel Chin and *Last Things* by Ivor Shearer, will be screened at the New Orleans Museum of Art on Wednesday, August 27, at 7 p.m., followed by a conversation with the filmmakers. The program, scheduled to closely coincide with the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flooding of New Orleans, will be free to Louisiana residents.

#### **About *9-11/9-11* and Mel Chin**

In this animated film, *9-11/9-11*, Mel Chin creates a tale of two cities, a tragedy of two times, weaving a story of love and hope wrecked by overt and covert manipulations of power and the impact of these collective traumas.

September 11, 2001—New York City. September 11, 1973—Santiago. The terrorist attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York scarred the trust of the American people; while the Chilean military overthrow of President Salvador Allende, which occurred on the same day 28 years prior, ushered in 17 years of autocratic rule that left countless victims of torture and more than 3,000 dead.

Chin is an artist who generates social awareness and responsibility through his politically engaged work. Chin's work takes on many forms, from conceptual installation to collaborative partnership, and from practical environmental and social projects to popular entertainment. Chin has shown nationally and internationally, including solo exhibitions at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; The Menil Collection, Houston; Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York; and the Fabric Workshop, Philadelphia. His work has also been shown in the Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York, as well as numerous other museums throughout the world.

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*Filmmakers Chin and Shearer at NOMA*

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**About *Last Things* and Ivor Shearer**

*Last Things* is a fictional experimental art film exploring the uncertainty of the future of New Orleans. Inspired by Paul Auster's 1987 novel, *In The Country of Last Things*, and set in the future, the film portrays a surreal, dystopic world in which the federal government has closed New Orleans off from the rest of the country. An absurd and illogical world is created by those unwilling to leave.

The film follows the activities of various characters as they navigate through a lawless world dominated by garbage and dependent on the recycling of found materials. Although the principle characters act as a guide to lead the viewer through this world, identification with these characters is kept at a minimum in an attempt to provoke critical thought and avoid escapism.

Shearer is a filmmaker/video artist living and working in New Orleans since 2003. In the last three years his work has been focused on the socio-political ramifications of Hurricane Katrina on the people of New Orleans. His recent work on Katrina has shown at the Wexner Center for the Arts, the Dallas Video Festival, and the New Orleans Human Rights Film Festival.

**About NOMA and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden**

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 40,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum's 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is free to Louisiana residents through the generosity of The Helis Foundation.

Admission to the adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 57 artists, including several of the 20th century's master sculptors, is always free during regular Museum hours.

The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk.

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