



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Anna Weldon, Director of Communications  
(408) 998-2787, ext. 217 / aweldon@artscouncil.org / www.artscouncil.org

### **Arts Council Silicon Valley Awards 2009 Fellowships to Seven Groundbreaking Artists**

***Public Exhibition and Reception to Honor 2009 Artist Fellowship Recipients  
At Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, California  
May 28, 2009 / 6:00-8:00 PM***

**San Jose, CA, April 8, 2009** – Arts Council Silicon Valley today announced the recipients of seven 2009 Artist Fellowship Grants for their groundbreaking contributions to the arts in Santa Clara County. This year's recipients include: Tricia Creason-Valencia, San Jose, (Visual Arts/2-Dimensional); Deborah Mills Thackrey, San Jose, (Visual Arts/2-Dimensional); Diana Pumpelly Bates, San Jose, (Visual Arts/3-Dimensional); Alan Soldofsky, San Jose, (Literary Arts-Poetry); John Santos, Oakland, (Performing Arts-Music Performance); Margaret Wingrove, Scotts Valley, (Performing Arts-Dance Choreography); and, Leslie Martinson, East Palo Alto, (Performing Arts-Theatre Stage Direction). These artists will be honored at a special reception and awards presentation at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara on May 28, 2009, from 6:00-8:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend and admission is free. For information please call 408.998.2787, x214. This year's visual artist fellows Tricia Creason-Valencia, Deborah Mills Thackrey, and Diana Pumpelly Bates, will also showcase their work at the Triton Museum in an exhibition scheduled from May 17 – July 19, 2009.

#### **ABOUT THE 2009 ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANTS**

Arts Council Silicon Valley annually awards Artist Fellowships to recognize local professional working artists and to enable them to continue to pursue their creative work. Fellowships of up to \$4,000 each are awarded annually in six artistic categories. All seven artists were selected by a notable panel of experienced judges based upon the artistic quality and originality of work, community impact during the past three years within Santa Clara County, and professional development by demonstrating continued exploration of the art form by the applicant. Arts Council Silicon Valley is the only funding agency south of San Francisco that awards artists unrestricted grants for career accomplishments.

"This year's 2009 Artist Fellowship grantees represent individuals who continuously push through to new boundaries of excellence in their artistic pursuits and raise the bar in terms of career accomplishments," said Bruce W. Davis, Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley. "We applaud their endeavors and are honored to support each of their creative journeys as well artistic contributions to the community."

- more -

## **ABOUT THE 2009 ARTIST FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS**

### **Visual Arts/2-Dimensional (tied)**

Tricia Creason-Valencia is Digital Video Instructor for Cool2Film Project, and teaches video production workshops to middle, high school, and college students. She is a film producer-director-editor and a recently named Fellow by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Public Broadcasting System; also by the National Association of Latino Independent Producers.

Deborah Mills Thackrey photographs abstract, textural images such as ever-changing patterns of reflections on the water's surface or close-ups of graffiti. Her works are in corporate and private collections. She also exhibits at local galleries as well as in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

### **Visual Arts/3-Dimensional**

Diana Pumpelly Bates creates sculptures both large and small scale, suitable for indoor and outdoor installation. Large-scale works include public art commissions in San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento. She also exhibits in galleries and has served on numerous consultant teams, advisory committees, and review panels.

### **Literary Arts – Poetry**

Alan Soldofsky is Director of Creative Writing Programs at San Jose State University where he also teaches courses and workshops in poetry, literary production, literature and composition. While at San Jose State, he has directed the Center for Literary Arts as well as the San Jose Poetry Center. He has published three books of poetry and his poems have appeared in magazines, periodicals, and anthologies.

### **Performing Arts/Music Performance**

John Santos is a four-time Grammy nominee and one of the foremost exponents of Afro-Latin music in the world today. He has performed, recorded and studied with acknowledged masters in the field of Afro-Latin and Jazz. He is also respected as one of the top writers, teachers and historians in the field. Among his numerous performances are regular appearances with the San Jose Jazz Festival.

### **Performing Arts/Dance Choreography**

Margaret Wingrove is the Founder/Artistic Director of Margaret Wingrove Dance Company, San Jose's longest-standing modern dance company. She has created over a hundred works for her dancers and has been a frequent guest choreographer for other dance companies in the South Bay, Peninsula, San Francisco and Berkeley. As a dancer she performed and studied extensively on both the East and West Coasts.

### **Performing Arts/Theatre Stage Direction**

Leslie Martinson is a senior staff member of TheatreWorks, the third-largest repertory theatre in the Bay Area, presenting in Palo Alto and Mountain View. At TheatreWorks she serves as Associate Artist and Casting Director, and has directed over a dozen plays, most of them West Coast premieres. She has also taught/lectured on theatre and acting at local high schools, community colleges and universities.

-- ### --

## **ABOUT ARTS COUNCIL SILICON VALLEY**

Arts Council Silicon Valley is an independent, nonprofit arts agency dedicated to providing funding, advocacy support, and marketing services to the region's arts organizations and artists. As the official state/local partner with the California Arts Council, the County of Santa Clara, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Council Silicon Valley is the largest nonprofit arts council in the state. Since the organization's inception in 1982, the Arts Council has provided nearly \$24 million in grants and services to local arts and cultural organizations, individual artists, schools, and community groups. For more information on Arts Council Silicon Valley go to: [www.artscouncil.org](http://www.artscouncil.org)