



*For Immediate Release*

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## MO`OLELO PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY ANNOUNCES ART MUSEUM NIGHT AT *PERMANENT COLLECTION*

Performance and discussion about race, inclusion and the San Diego Museum of Art  
Saturday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring: Derrick R. Cartwright, Vasundhara Prabhu and Robert Pincus

**February 8, 2008 - San Diego, CA** – Award-winning Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company is pleased to announce **Art Museum Night at *Permanent Collection*** taking place on **Saturday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.** at the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre (930 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101).

As part of a unique partnership between Mo`olelo and the San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA), the region's primary resource for exhibitions and collections of fine art, the two arts organizations will present a **post show discussion** of the compelling drama, *Permanent Collection*, featuring SDMA Executive Director **Derrick R. Cartwright**, SDMA Deputy Director for Education and Interpretation **Vasundhara Prabhu** and Union-Tribune Art Critic **Robert Pincus**. Using the play as a point of reference, the speakers will present their perspectives on how museums work and address issues of race, inclusion, and curatorial decisions.

Inspired by real events at The Barnes Foundation, the play *Permanent Collection* tells the story of a fictional Morris Foundation and their new Director's proposal to move eight significant pieces of African art from storage into their permanent collection galleries.

The San Diego Museum of Art, which holds a small collection of African art, recently announced that it will present an exhibition of women in African art, entitled *Black Womanhood*, from February 1 – April 20, 2009. This nationally touring exhibition will examine how the Black female form is used in both African and Western art. Mr. Cartwright was involved early on with the *Black Womanhood* show when he was the director of the Hood Museum at Dartmouth College, the institution that organized the exhibition.

“My colleagues and I have long been impressed by Mo`olelo’s staff and programming. We especially look forward to this collaboration and dialogue. Sharing art museum history and current practice as told from a team of people who are also presented in the play should be a learning experience for us all.”

Tickets to this special performance and discussion are now on sale and may be purchased by calling **619-342-7395** or visiting the Mo`olelo website at [www.moolelo.net](http://www.moolelo.net). SDMA members are advised to inquire with the Museum on how to obtain discounted tickets to the event by calling 619-232-9367 or online at [www.sdmart.org](http://www.sdmart.org).

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**Derrick R. Cartwright** represents a new direction in the art museum world. As an art historian, university professor, and as an executive director, he brings new vision to art museum practice. A member and trustee of the Association of Art Museum Directors, he is keen on collaborations both within the museum and without; looking for new partnerships that provide interesting results for all involved, especially the audiences. Derrick Cartwright was named the Executive Director of the San Diego Museum of Art in the fall of 2004. Prior to that he was Director of the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, and also the first Director of the Musée d'Art Américain Giverny, in France. He received his Ph.D. in American art history from the University of Michigan in 2004. He has published articles and lectured on a wide range of topics including public art, transatlantic cultural exchange, and American painting and the history of photography.

**Vasundhara Prabu (Vas)** An art museum educator and administrator, Vas has pushed the boundaries that are typical in art museums as they refer to education, curatorial and marketing. Known for her collaborations with communities, Vas has helped make art museums more accessible and meaningful to a wide range of audiences. Her work in interpretation and exhibitions have involved culturally sophisticated language, new media, work with artists, and reading areas, education spaces which have won her awards from the museum and art education fields. When Vas entered the museum field, she was one of the first Asian American woman to do so. Vas holds a MA in museum leadership from Bank Street College of Education.

**Robert Pincus** has been the art critic of [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#) for more than two decades and he is a longtime corresponding editor for [Art in America](#). He is the author of [On A Scale That Competes with the World: The Art of Edward and Nancy Reddin Kienholz](#), the first book-length study of this major American sculptor and his later-in-life collaborator. Pincus also contributed numerous essays to exhibition catalogs and books, including [West Coast Duchamp](#), [Manuel Neri: Early Work](#), [But Is It Art?: The Spirit of Art as Activism](#), and, most recently, [Defining a Vision](#), a volume on the history of the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego. His reviews and longer pieces have also appeared in such periodicals as [Artforum](#), [Art News](#) and [Art Issues](#). For the past decade, he has taught an annual seminar each Spring Semester at the University of San Diego, "Art Now: Critical Thinking About Art." Pincus holds a combined Ph.D. in English and Art history from the University of Southern California. He has received numerous awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the San Diego Press Club and was a recipient of the Chemical Bank Award for Distinguished Newspaper Art Criticism.

**Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company** is an award-winning theater company dedicated to broadening the scope of San Diego's cultural environment. Mo'olelo produces professional, socially conscious theater and innovative arts education programs that provide greater representation of diverse voices and feature multiple perspectives. Mo'olelo is the only theater company in San Diego that has made a commitment to paying Equity wages to local actors. Further, as the creators of GREEN Theater Categories and Sustainable Guidelines, Mo'olelo is a national leader in developing environmentally friendly theater practices. "Mo'olelo" is the Hawaiian word for "story," and reflects the Company's vision to tell powerful stories, as diverse as the Islands of Hawaii. More information may be found at [www.moolelo.net](http://www.moolelo.net) or 619-342-7395.



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**Art Museum Night at *Permanent Collection*  
Fact Sheet**

**What:** A performance and post-show discussion of *Permanent Collection*

**When:** Saturday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Mo'olelo at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre  
930 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101 (Downtown)

**Who:** *Permanent Collection* produced by Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company  
Director: Seema Sueko\*  
Scenic Design: David F. Weiner  
Lighting Design: Jason Bieber  
Costume Design: Michelle Hunt  
Stage Manager: Elizabeth Stephens\*

**Cast:**

Tanya Johnson	<i>Kanika Weaver</i>
Valerie J. Ludwig*	<i>Ella Franklin</i>
Walter Murray	<i>Sterling North</i>
Joe Powers*	<i>Alfred Morris</i>
John Tessmer	<i>Paul Barrow</i>
Debra Wanger*	<i>Gillian Crane</i>

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

**Post-show discussion**

Derrick R. Cartwright	Executive Director, San Diego Museum of Art
Vasundhara Prabhu	Deputy Director for Education & Interpretation, San Diego Museum of Art
Robert Pincus	Art Critic, San Diego Union Tribune

**Synopsis:** *Permanent Collection* is the story of Sterling North - the African American Director of the Morris Foundation & Museum, and Paul Barrow - the Museum's Caucasian Education Director. When their conflict over eight important pieces of African art is uncovered by a curious journalist, a complex and bitter clash erupts over race, representation, art, and the role of the media.

**Tickets:** \$20 - \$25  
Discounts available to SDMA Members: call 619-232-9367 or visit [www.sdmart.org](http://www.sdmart.org).  
Green Discounts: As part of Mo'olelo's Green Initiative, we offer incentives and discounts when you bring proof of using green transportation to the theatre. See our website for more details.

**Box Office:** 619-342-7395 and [www.moolelo.net](http://www.moolelo.net)

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