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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unique Exhibit Explores Art and Disabilities

Artist Cheung Ka-cheung usually begins his creative process by drawing a basic outline with a dry brush and then blends in the colors. Similarly, Cesar Sujo creates rich imagery in his mind, which he then carefully brings to life with his paint brushes.

Although they live more than 7,000 miles apart—Cheung in Hong Kong and Sujo in Los Angeles—both have found expression through their paintings and both are artists with disabilities.

They will be among 40 artists featured in *Transpacific Ties: Bridging Hong Kong and Los Angeles through Art*, the Chinese American Museum’s first transnational exhibition, opening Aug. 9 and continuing through Dec. 14.

Transpacific Ties emphasizes the talents of two groups of artists separated by the Pacific Ocean but united in their shared passion for art. The exhibition, which is a highlight of the museum’s 10th anniversary celebration, also strives to encourage an ongoing dialogue about the Chinese diaspora; share the stories, histories, and challenges that unite the community; and showcase the many ways in which the community cares for and empowers those with disabilities.

“CAM is proud to partner with the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) and the Southern California-based Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled (CPAD) for this monumental show,” stated Dr. Gay Yuen, President, Friends of the Chinese American Museum.

Dr. Yuen recently returned from Hong Kong, where she participated in a press conference led by Mr. Ivan Sze, Chairman, TWGHs, who emphasized the significance of the unique exhibition in L.A. Mr. Sze was joined by Ms. Mee Ling Yeung, Assistant Superintendent, Jockey Club Rehabilitation Complex (JCRC).

“The true power of art is its availability,” CAM’s Interim Executive Director Steve Wong points out. “It is a form of expression open to anyone, from any background... a truly powerful form of self-expression for artists with disabilities who may be inhibited by other modes of expression.”

The museum is located at 425 N. Los Angeles St., just south of Olvera Street, and is open Tuesday-Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, closed Mondays, Thanksgiving and Christmas (cross street Arcadia, enter from west side off Sanchez Street).

For additional information, visit the website at camla.org. Suggested admission: adults, \$3; seniors 60 and over, \$2; students with ID, \$2; and CAM members, free. All exhibits are wheelchair accessible.

BACKGROUND

Chinese American Museum

Symbolically housed in the oldest and last surviving structure of Los Angeles' original Chinatown, CAM is located at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument – a 44-acre public park preserved as the city's "birthplace." Through quality exhibitions, programs, events, publications and workshops, CAM raises awareness and educates the public about the contributions of Chinese Americans in the United States.

Operated by the Friends of the Chinese American Museum (FCAM) as a part of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, CAM helps foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of America's diverse heritage by researching, preserving, and sharing the history, rich cultural legacy, and continuing contributions of Chinese Americans.

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs)

Established in 1870, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) is the largest charitable organization in Hong Kong, providing welfare services such as free medication, education and burial for the poor and disaster relief for victims of natural calamities. Today, with over 190 community service centers, TWGHs covers a full spectrum of social welfare services catering to the needs of families, children and youth, the elderly and the disabled under the theme, "Quality Care, Holistic Development."

TWGHs i-dArt

TWGHs established "i-dArt" to emphasize that the appreciation and creation of art is an inborn right of human beings and that we should focus on the power of art, instead of the intellectual or physical abilities of the artists. With this in mind, "i-dArt" promotes art so as a means of promoting greater understanding between people with different abilities.

Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled (CPAD)

Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled (CPAD) is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals with special needs (e.g. autism, Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, etc.) and their families achieve their full potential toward meaningful and productive lives, encourage social integration, and inclusion into mainstream society.

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