



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **LASM'S Latest Exhibition is Inspired by the Cosmos**

BATON ROUGE, LA — In celebration of the International Year of Astronomy, *Starry Messenger: Galileo's Vision in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art* will be on view at Louisiana Art & Science Museum (LASM) from September 26 through December 13, 2009. This exhibition features the artwork of eight contemporary artists from across the country inspired by astronomy subjects –Vija Celmins; Thierry W. Despont; Elen A. Feinberg; Jonathon Feldschuh; Eva Lee; Carol Prusa; Josh Simpson and Sallie Wolf. The 58 works on view include paintings, prints, glass sculpture, digital art, and a video installation.

Taking its name from Galileo's 1610 publication *Sidereus Nuncius*, sometimes translated as *Starry Messenger*, the exhibition also includes text panels describing Galileo's accomplishments and reproductions of his drawings. Galileo had originally considered becoming a painter, and his artistic training enhanced his analysis of what he saw through his telescope and his ability to convey it. Just as his observations inspired the artists of Galileo's time, these works in a variety of media demonstrate the continuing allure of the cosmos for today's artists.

Several special events in conjunction with *Starry Messenger: Galileo's Vision in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art* will take place. LASM's annual gala fundraiser on September 25, 2009, will offer a sneak preview of the exhibition. On October 22, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. join the artists represented in the exhibition for a lively moderated discussion about art and astronomy under the stars in the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, and the following night at 8:00 p.m. view the planet Jupiter and its moons from the Riverfront Landing Dock. Award-winning novelist Dava Sobel will speak about her best-selling book *Galileo's Daughter* on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 2:00 pm. Princeton professor Eileen Reeves will discuss Galileo's discoveries and their impact on artists of the 17<sup>th</sup> century on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Organized by LASM, this exhibition has been generously supported by Kean Miller Hawthorne D'Armond McCowan & Jarman LLP; Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities; Irene W. and C. B.

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LOUISIANA ART & SCIENCE MUSEUM  
IRENE W. PENNINGTON PLANETARIUM

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Pennington Foundation; Albemarle Foundation; the Samuel S. Lipscomb and Joseph W. Annison Family Memorial Fund; the Alma Lee and H. N. Saurage Fund, and the Josef Sternberg Memorial Fund of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation; Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge and WRKF.

For more information on LASM, the exhibition and events associated with it, visit [lasm.org](http://lasm.org) or call 225-344-9478.

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