



Center on Contemporary Art
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Awakening CoCA Announces New President

Seattle, Washington, January 26, 2009 – The Board of Directors of CoCA has recently elected Ray C. Freeman III as President, and has made other key appointments to strengthen the organization. Freeman, a Harvard-educated architect, ran Belltown’s WORKSHOP 3D Gallery from 1986-1998, from which he designed cutting-edge retail shops such as the Zebra Club II, 13 stores for Mr. Rags, Citterio at the Broadway Market, and the OMSI store in Portland, as well as award-winning residential projects, including the Roanoke Reef Rowhouses on Lake Union.

Two years after leaving its Dexter space, CoCA continues to mount shows through an arrangement with Apulent Catering on Shilshole Bay in Ballard. Another agreement with Avenue One Condominiums in Belltown enabled the opening of a second location, curated by Freeman. Under outgoing President Joseph Robert’s direction, CoCA has spent this period catching up on legal and financial issues and rebuilding its organization.

Freeman and a newly energized board plan to continue exploring alternative exhibition options, including outdoor, weekend, and other temporary venues. In an effort to update the mission after more than 25 years, CoCA plans to focus on exhibits organized around the creative process, stressing collaborative and interdisciplinary work that is frequently conceptual and site-specific.

“It’s only because the board has stepped up to the plate that I feel comfortable taking the reigns,” said Freeman. “This renewed commitment to our mission is exciting, and it’s going to take us into new territory”.

As a part of the shift, Derin Smith has taken over the role of Curator of CoCA’s Belltown Gallery, and Danilo Bonilla and David Francis have taken on the roles of Chairman and Secretary, respectively. Mariyah Guess has joined the board to take over Freeman’s responsibilities as Treasurer. Joseph Roberts remains on board as head of the Programming Committee.

For additional information and ongoing developments, visit <http://www.cocaseattle.org>.

ABOUT CoCA – Established in 1980, CoCA serves the Pacific Northwest as a catalyst and forum for the advancement, development, and understanding of contemporary art.

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