



# SYNERGY ART FOUNDATION

A National Heritage Foundation

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## SYNERGY ART FOUNDATION'S "FROM ASHES TO ART" FUND-RAISER FOR ARTISTS SEVERELY IMPACTED BY FIRESTORMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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To date, over sixty San Diego artists and local businesses have generously offered donations for Synergy Art Foundation's art auction and sale, "**From Ashes to Art**". The event is scheduled for **Sunday, December 14, 2003**, from **1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**, and held at a most appropriate location, close to Little Italy, and close to the hearts of those artists deeply impacted by the recent firestorms – **The San Diego Fire House Museum**. The museum is located at 1572 Columbia Street. Patrick Hesters, Executive Director of this fascinating museum, was more than delighted to offer Synergy Art Foundation the venue.

**100% of the fundraiser's proceeds** will be distributed to artists who have been profoundly impacted and displaced by the firestorms. According to Muffin Bekker, co-founder of Synergy Art Foundation, "to date we have a list of fifteen artists who fall into this category. We are still trying to find out how to reach them." These artists will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and financial assistance will be provided to those that qualify.

"*From Ashes to Art*" will be a true arts event. A silent auction will be held offering not only artworks but interesting items. The live auction, set for 3:00 p.m., will be undertaken by Joan Seifried, M.A., Certified Member of the International Society of Appraisers, American Association of Appraisers, and graduate of Christies Education & Decorative Arts. Ms. Seifried will also be the Mistress of Ceremonies for the event, which includes song, dance, poetry and musical performances by local artists. She is known to be stimulating, educating and entertaining in this role.

James Hubbell, who suffered tremendous losses at his Santa Ysabel property, is donating two artworks. He is on the Board of Regents of Synergy Art Foundation. Some of the better known artists donating work include Robert Perine, Mary Lynn Dominguez, Jess Dominguez, Gerrit Greve, Ken Goldman, T.J. Dixon, Christopher Lee, Raúl Guerrero and Frans Marie Haeger.

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*Art is a catalyst for personal empowerment, creativity, community building and positive social change.*

One professional photographer who lost his home, equipment, and decades worth of negatives and images, Michael Campbell, will be presenting his “story” and offerings to other artists in the same predicament. There will be a minimal entry fee of \$5.00 to attend that includes a glass of wine or beverage and tasty snacks.

This is an opportunity for art lovers to not only purchase artworks from our talented local artists but to support artists who desperately need financial assistance to replace tools, equipment, and art supplies.

Born out of compassion for artists profoundly affected by the recent firestorms, five arts advocates and artists joined together to form a new foundation called **Synergy Art Foundation**, approved on November 14, 2003. Its immediate mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to local artists deeply impacted by the recent disaster in our county. The foundation plans to support and nurture artists via pioneering programs in arts education, arts for healing, community arts, and national/international art residencies.

Synergy Art Foundation falls under the umbrella of The National Heritage Foundation, a 4.3 billion dollar foundation based in Falls Church, Virginia. It is a public charitable corporation classified under Section 501(c) (3), 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The National Heritage Foundation is the administrative facilitator of their approved charitable organizations, providing perpetual advisory leadership for their foundations’ activities.