

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ART OF DINING 2010

Honoring Sidney Felsen, Acclaimed Co-Founder of Gemini G.E.L.
Saturday, May 8, 6 pm

Newport Beach, CA—The Orange County Museum of Art's *Art of Dining*, one of Orange County's most prominent social evenings and the premier event celebrating creativity and artistic excellence, will take place May 8th at The Island Hotel in Newport Beach. Each year, *Art of Dining* honors an individual of international acclaim who has made an important impact in the



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artworld and this year the museum recognizes Sidney B. Felsen, co-founder of Gemini G.E.L. (Graphic Editions Limited). Guests will first enjoy a reception at the museum with a private viewing of two major exhibitions showcasing works from the permanent collection, followed by dinner and dancing at The Island Hotel. This year's event features a menu created by the Hotel's renowned Executive Chef Bill Bracken. *Art of Dining* attracts over 300 attendees annually and raises funds for OCMA's exhibition and education programs. Sponsorship and individual tickets are available at www.ocma.net.

Sidney Felsen has been a seminal figure in the contemporary art scene for over 40 years. In 1966 he co-founded Gemini G.E.L., the LA-based artists workshop and publisher of handprinted, limited edition lithographs by some of the greatest artists of our time. Felsen has collaborated with artists such as John Baldessari, Vija Celmins, Ann Hamilton, David Hockney, Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Elizabeth Murray, Bruce Nauman, Isamu Noguchi, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Ed Ruscha, Frank Stella, Richard Serra, and Richard Tuttle in Gemini G.E.L.'s studio to produce innovative and experimental limited editions by these extraordinary artists.

Felsen's photography of the artists he has worked with led to the publication of a book titled "The Artist Observed" in 2003. The portraits in the book are testament not only to Felsen's talent as a photographer, but to the vitality of the relationships he develops with his artist subjects in the environment of dynamic collaboration at Gemini.

"I am particularly excited to honor Sidney at this year's Art of Dining," stated OCMA Director Dennis Szakacs. "He's an iconic figure who has worked with so many influential artists to expand the boundaries of printmaking. He is a champion of both the art form and of the arts in Southern California."

Felsen was involved with the Orange County Museum of Art from its earliest days as the Newport Harbor Art Museum. A 1992 OCMA exhibition and publication featured works from the first 25 years of Gemini G.E.L. and OCMA's collection includes important works that were produced at Gemini G.E.L. by John Baldessari, Larry Bell, Jonathan Borofsky, Vija Celmins, Joe Goode, Edward and Nancy Kienholz, Bruce Nauman, Kenneth Price, Robert Rauschenberg, Edward Ruscha and Richard Serra.

Recent Art of Dining honorees have included Mary Heilmann, Thom Mayne, Richard Serra, Bill Viola, and Robert Wilson.

-END-

ART OF DINING 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Marsha Anderson, Inga Beder, Susan Etchandy, Michelle Janavs, Moira Kamgar, Twyla Martin, Irene Martino, Lilly Merage, Suzan Paek, Lizette Du Pribus, Jennifer Segerstrom, and Jennifer Van Bergh

ART OF DINING SPONSORSHIP:

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ABOUT THE ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

The Orange County Museum of Art is the premier visual arts museum in Orange County, California, serving a population of nearly three million residents in one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the United States. The museum's program of dynamic solo exhibitions and landmark group shows links historical and contemporary art and ideas, bridges local and global perspectives, and embraces a diverse array of cultural activities and media. The museum is dedicated enriching the lives of a diverse and changing community through modern and contemporary art.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach is located at 850 San Clemente Drive. Hours are 11 am to 5 pm, Wednesday through Sunday, with extended hours Thursdays from 11 am to 8 pm. Admission is \$12/adults; \$10/seniors and students; children twelve and under and OCMA members are free. For more information, call 949.759.1122 or visit www.ocma.net.