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24th Annual ArtWalk Festival Celebrates Art Appreciation and Awareness in Little Italy's City Streets

*Featuring 400 Visual and Performing Artists, Kids Walk,
Bi-national Showcase, ArtReach Bench Project
And Silent Auction, and Much More
FREE—April 26 and 27, 2008*

For high resolution photographs go to: http://www.artwalksandiego.org/press/photos_2008.html
and http://www.artwalksandiego.org/press/fa_2008.html

SAN DIEGO (April 1, 2008) – Now in its 24th year, ArtWalk, San Diego's largest and best-known art festival returns to downtown San Diego's artsy Little Italy neighborhood this April 26 and 27, 2008 from noon to 6 p.m. both days.

ArtWalk features fine art from 400 California, Arizona and Mexico-based artists including painting, sculpture, glasswork, and photography. This year's festival involves more live performances than ever, presenting music and dance from some of San Diego's bands and dance groups.

"ArtWalk has become a Spring ritual in San Diego. It's a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with your favorite artists from previous years, and see how their work has evolved. There will be many new artists in our palette this year, and we have been very excited about the variety and caliber of the work. So if your empty walls are calling out to you, ArtWalk is the place to be to discover how affordable it is to own original art."

"As a global technology leader headquartered in San Diego, we're proud to create, sponsor and participate in many meaningful community events throughout the city and county," said Ed Brown, president and chief operating officer of Cymer. "This is our second year supporting ArtWalk, and we value the artistic and cultural experience this enriching event offers attendees."

We're proud to be the premiere sponsor again this year, and encourage San Diegans to come out and enjoy the festivities."

The free festival brings in more than 100,000 visitors to ArtWalk each year, and gives attendees an opportunity to spend the day enjoying the sights, sounds and tastes of Little Italy and the event's festive atmosphere while contributing over \$1,000,000 into the local arts economy.

Just minutes from the well-known Gaslamp District and conveniently located within walking distance from the train and trolley stations, the event is easily accessible for both locals and visitors alike.

ArtWalk takes place over 14 city blocks with artists showcasing their artwork on East-West streets from Beech Street to Fir Street, with India and Kettner Boulevard as the main thoroughfares through the event.

ArtWalk offers an array of activities and entertainment for everyone to enjoy, including highlights such as:

KidsWalk

Located at Amici Park, KidsWalk gives children and families an opportunity to find their inner artists and come and enjoy visual and performing art in a fun and creative way. Different organizations inspire kids through hands-on interactive activities including Shoes of Hope and Mural Project, Ocean Art, Face Painting and Animal Masks, Mini Kite Making, art projects made from recycled and reclaimed items, interactive music performances, and much more.

ArtReach Bench Project and Silent Auction

Decorated benches, designed by ArtWalk's own artists, will be displayed on India Street between Cedar Street and Date Street. Attendees have the opportunity to bid and purchase with all proceeds benefiting ArtReach. Created by the same team behind ArtWalk, ArtReach is a non-profit program designed to stimulate children's art awareness and education through collaborative visual arts projects taught by ArtWalk artists in San Diego County elementary schools.

Bi-National Showcase

The Consulado General de Mexico/Mexican Cultural Institute, located in the Consulado building at India and Cedar Streets, celebrate artistic excellence from Mexican artists by bringing more than 25 artists from all over Mexico to ArtWalk. These artists include Cecilia García Amaro, Silvia Galindo, Alejandro Martínez Peña, Julio Rodriguez, and Angel Valrá.

Music and More

Twenty-six solo musicians and bands entertain attendees at seven performance venues.

Premiere Sponsor: Cymer, Inc.

Headquartered in San Diego, Cymer develops essential laser technology to aid in the manufacturing of semiconductor chips that power consumer electronic devices including MP3 players, computers, PDAs, among many others. Cymer technology impacts the way we work, communicate and play every day. Cymer is committed to giving back to the San Diego community and has contributed over 2 million dollars in two years to local organizations that support civic, cultural, educational, environmental and health initiatives. For additional information on Cymer please visit www.cymer.com.

About ArtWalk 2008

ArtWalk is San Diego's largest and best-known art festival featuring some of the finest painting, sculpture, glasswork, photography, music, dance and entertainment from Southern California, Arizona and Mexico-based artists. Now in its 24th year, ArtWalk was founded by a network of artists and art lovers to bring together all facets of the arts in San Diego and to promote the idea of owning original artwork. ArtWalk has partnered with organizations including the Little Italy Association, the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego, CCDC, San Diego Museum of Art, the Mingei Museum and the San Diego Visual Arts Network, to create a spectacular event that attracts more than 100,000 attendees each year and contributes more than \$1,000,000 annually to the local San Diego arts economy. The open-air art festival is free to the public and takes place in downtown San Diego's hip and historic Little Italy neighborhood. For more information, please visit www.artwalksandiego.org.