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VenicellVenice:

An Historic Collaboration Between Contemporary American Painters
Based In and Around Venice, CA, and Contemporary Venetian (Italy) Painters
and Glass Masters

Coming to Los Angeles After an Acclaimed Opening at the V & A Gallery in Venice,
Italy, in Conjunction With the 2005 Venice Biennale

Thursday, 11 August through Saturday, 10 September, 2005

Opening Reception: Saturday, 13 August, 2005

Downtown Art Walk: Thursday August 11, 2005 12 – 9 pm

Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Saturday 12 – 6 pm

At the PHARMAKA Gallery

102 West 5th St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 • 213-689-7799

A Non-Profit Institution in Downtown Los Angeles' New Gallery Row District

LOS ANGELES, CA – July 5, 2004 – VENICE. The original in Italy and its counterpart on the coast of Southern California have aroused some of the world's most important artists. From Tintoretto and William Turner to Ed Ruscha and Frank Gehry ... the light, the color, the water, all have informed a creative production as unique as it is enchanting. First stimulated by the discourse and artistry of the *Funace degli Angeli* in the mid-1950s (a collaboration partly inspired and organized by Peggy Guggenheim, between the glass masters of Murano and artists such as Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Max Ernst, and others), the Galleria Vetro e Arte in Venice and GrossArt with PHARMAKA in Los Angeles have embarked upon an artistic exchange between these two cities well beyond the scope of the original *Funace*. Meant to investigate this incomparable sense of place through a variety of media (oil and canvas, mixed media and board, metal and glass), new works and collaborations from this on-going project will be exhibited in both Venice, Italy, and Los Angeles, California, starting the Summer of 2005. From Los Angeles, glass designed by Richard Birt, an innovative new glass sculpture born of the collaboration between Shane Guffogg and Pino Signoretto, paintings and collaborations with Chris Cousins, Shane Guffogg, John Scane and Vonn Cummings Sumner; from Venice the paintings of Gino Baffo and Valter Paties, and the glass mastery of Mauro Bonaventura, Pino Signoretto.

PHARMAKA is a Greek word that means to paint or an artist's colors. It also means a poison or remedy. The name was chosen because its roots are in ancient Greece, the cradle of Western civilization, and it speaks to the duality inherent in all things. The PHARMAKA Gallery has been incorporated as non-profit, and will also include exhibitions that might otherwise fall into the void between commercial Galleries and Museums. Respected curators and a variety (including internationally acclaimed artists) will be invited for curatorial collaborations.

www.grossart.com • www.pharmaka-art.org • www.venicewebgallery.com