

**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

**HEIDI HESSE**  
***EXPORTING LIBERTY***

**WHAT:** *EXPORTING LIBERTY* exhibition of artwork by Heidi Hesse  
**WHERE:** MOCA 191 East Toole Avenue, Downtown Tucson  
**WHEN:** 7 February-24 April member preview 6-7pm, public opening 7-9pm  
**HOW:** Admission is always free at MOCA, hours are 12-5pm Tuesday-Saturday, 12-8pm Thursdays.

CONTACT: Anne-Marie Russell 624-5019 or [info@moca-tucson.org](mailto:info@moca-tucson.org)

**RELATED EVENTS:**

ARTIST TALK @ MOCA 6 March 3pm

THIRD THURSDAY WALK & TALK 7pm

**please call 624-5019 or email [info@moca-tucson.org](mailto:info@moca-tucson.org) for reservations**

**MOCA @ TUCSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

Heidi Hesse installation entitled AFLOAT on exhibit from 31 January to 2 May, 2004

200 South Sixth Avenue, Tucson call 792-0639 for details

**Heidi Hesse: *Exporting Liberty***

The Museum of Contemporary Art is pleased to announce our upcoming exhibition **Heidi Hesse: *Exporting Liberty***. Hesse was born in Germany and raised in South Africa before emigrating to the United States in 1982. Hesse's recent body of work, *Investigating Liberty*, began as series of meditations on notions of freedom and identity surrounding the immigrant experience and the American Dream. This led to *Exporting Liberty*, a body of work that examines ways in which 'liberty' is often spread by force throughout the world. Since questioning whether to seek U.S. citizenship--having lived in two countries with troubled histories of their own--Hesse began exploring

the rhetoric and history of freedom and liberty in the United States, at precisely a moment when U.S. foreign policy was undergoing radical changes. This exhibition is the culmination of that investigation. *Exporting Liberty* deals with questions of identity with regard to self and country—themes familiar to us all. The installation takes the viewer on a metaphorical journey across the Atlantic Ocean to the shores of the United States. Along the way, the viewer/participant encounters *Liberty Enlightening The World* (commonly known as the Statue of Liberty), a wedding cake White House, a life-sized s.u.v. filled with colored gumballs, color-coded monochrome paintings, a foosball table displaying familiar characters, and a train that chases it's tale. The installation encourages the viewer to examine their own notions of liberty, patriotism, consumption and dissent in our contemporary society.

**ATTACHED IMAGE: Detail from *Sugar-Coated*, 2003**

A catalogue will be published in conjunction with this exhibition with a contributing essay on liberty entitled *Patrick Henry, Call Home* by Charles Bowden. The catalogue is made possible in part by the Ted Decker Catalyst Fund and generous patrons in the community.

**ABOUT HEIDI HESSE**

Heidi Hesse was born Hamburg, German in 1962. She emigrated to the United States in 1982. Hesse received her BFA from Arizona State University in 1999 and her MFA from Ohio State University in 2002 where she studied installation artist Ann Hamilton (US representative to the Venice Biennale in 1999). Hesse lives and works in Phoenix, Arizona.

**ABOUT CHARLES BOWDEN**

Writer Charles Bowden lives in Tucson, writes from magazines and scribbles books now and again. His recent book include the highly acclaimed *Down by the River: Drugs, Money, Murder and Family* and *Blues For Cannibals: Notes from Underground*.

**ABOUT TED DECKER CATALYST FUND**

The Ted Decker Catalyst Fund makes legacy investments in artists' futures by awarding advocacy, marketing, and mentoring grants to encourage artists to more effectively position themselves for success in their careers. The Ted Decker Catalyst Fund is affiliated with MARS, Inc., a private, non-for-profit 501(c)3 educational organization committed to arts advocacy and education through its programming.

### **ABOUT MOCA**

The mission of the Museum of Contemporary Art is to provide a forum for the development and exchange of ideas about the art of our time. Through varied programs, MOCA supports the critical interpretation and display of the highest quality of contemporary art in service to our community as a public trust. MOCA is supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Tucson/Pima Arts Council, and members from our community. MOCA is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization.

### **ABOUT TUCSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

The Tucson Children's Museum (TCM) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing hands-on learning experiences for children. The Museum's mission is to **excite** children about learning, **inspire** them to set goals important to their future, and **challenge** them to reach their full potential through experiences in the arts, sciences, and humanities.

### **ABOUT SHADE PROJECTS**

Shade Projects is a non-profit organization based in downtown Phoenix whose mission is to explore, inform and educate the public about the convergence of contemporary culture, art and society both within our region and elsewhere. the organization plan, collaborates and supports events that are in alignment with this mission. Shade Projects is the publisher of the bi-monthly magazine, *shade*.