

# Long Beach Museum of Art

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IMAGES AVAILABLE



## LONG BEACH MUSEUM OF ART AND PORT OF LONG BEACH PARTNER TO PRESENT *THE ART OF COMMERCE: WILLIAM LIVINGSTON'S PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PORT OF LONG BEACH*

**LONG BEACH** (May 7, 2008) – The Long Beach Museum of Art will present its newest exhibition, *The Art of Commerce: William Livingston's Pinhole Photographs of the Port of Long Beach*, from May 23 – September 28, 2008. The exhibition features a dozen, large breathtaking photos of The Port of Long Beach as never before seen. The photographer, Bill Livingston, was given exclusive access to capture everyday images of Port activity using a pinhole camera.

The photos in *The Art of Commerce* effortlessly capture the combination of industrial beauty and dynamic reality that exist at the Port. Lively shades of blue, yellow and green illuminate the shipping yards, ships, docks, cranes, containers, trucks, and trains; all set against brilliant blue skies. The photographs embrace the commotion and activity of daily port activities – a shipment being lowered onto a truck, a train crisscrossing vast terminals, or simply the silky rippling of the ocean below. Fittingly, *The Art of Commerce* will be installed in the Museum's Jean and Charles Lane Oceanview Gallery, whose south-facing, second-floor wall of windows offers dramatic views of the Port of Long Beach.

### Educational Programming

In conjunction with *The Art of Commerce*, the Museum is planning a number of educational activities for children and adults that will explore the concepts and techniques of pinhole photography and allow participants to create their own photographs using pinhole cameras.

At the end of the exhibition, the artwork created in the children's workshops will be presented in a special three-month exhibition in the Museum's Toyota Children's Gallery, which will include a private opening reception for the featured children and their families.

The educational programming will allow the community to more deeply connect with the exhibition and the Port as well as the unique opportunity to exhibit their work in the professional setting of the Museum.

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## **A Statement from the Artist**

"Since I rediscovered the pinhole camera (*camera obscura*) in the early 1990's my work has been an ongoing experiment in photographing movement in things both natural and man-made. Using the pinhole camera, a vessel stripped of all the latest technology; the 4 by 5 inch film is exposed simply by the amount of light allowed through the pinhole during the exposure. Because these simple devices have no viewfinder and no way to adjust focus, I am left to rely on a visceral feeling about the composition and resulting image. Unlike traditional photography with clear imagery and crisp edges, the long exposure times and a lack of optical glass in pinhole photography impart a softened, painterly quality.



"The Port of Long Beach is truly an amazing place: cranes hoisting cargo, trucks crisscrossing vast terminals, people directing an endless choreography of precision movement; this truly is the heartbeat of commerce in these United States if not the world. And it is a perfect location for pinhole photography with huge stacks of rectangular steel containers, rows of rigid cranes and massive ships set against blue skies. At every turn are solidity, hardness and angles. The pinhole process softens edges, saturates colors and captures movement. At the Port of Long Beach the antiquated technology of the pinhole camera allows us to truly see the art of commerce."

--William Livingston, May 2008

## **About William Livingston**

Bill Livingston is a well-known commercial and fine art photographer, and has worked for Oakley, NASCAR, Toyota, Lexus and other clients. In an attempt to return to the rudimentary essence of photography, Livingston began experimenting with pinhole cameras and immediately recognized how the unique environment of the Port of Long Beach could be captured through this photographic technique.

***The Art of Commerce*** is made possible by the generous support of the Port of Long Beach. Additional support was provided by the B.C. McCabe Foundation and the Rudolph J. and Daphne A. Munzer Foundation.

## **About the Long Beach Museum of Art**

Located on a magnificent bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Long Beach Museum of Art features an historic mansion and carriage house, expansive galleries and gardens, oceanfront dining at Claire's at the Museum and a unique Museum Store. The galleries and store are open Tuesday – Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Claire's at the Museum is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday – Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors age 62 and older, free for Museum members and children under 12, and free for everyone on Friday. For more information, call (562) 439-2119 or visit [www.lbma.org](http://www.lbma.org).

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